

French premier shakes up cabinet

PARIS (AP) — Conservative Prime Minister Alain Juppé reshuffled his cabinet on Tuesday, less than a week before a major parliamentary debate on painful budget cuts. The new cabinet includes 16 ministers and 16 secretaries of state, down from a total of 41 in the old cabinet. The government said it wanted a scaled-down team to begin tackling tough problems such as trimming France's huge budget deficit. The new team, however, includes only four new faces. Thirteen former cabinet members were ousted, including Health Minister Elisabeth Hubert, the most important official to lose her job. Economy and Finance Minister Jean Arthur, a key player in the budget reforms, kept his post. Mr. Juppé's popularity ratings have plummeted as his six-month-old government copes with 11.5 per cent unemployment, strike threats from Labour Unions over austerity policies and a deadly series of bombings linked to Algerian Muslim militants. He also has been hit hard by a housing scandal that revealed he obtained city-owned housing at below-market rents for his family while he was Paris finance director.

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**Bomb hoax
on RJ flight**

VIENNA (Agencies) — A Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner forced to make an emergency landing in Vienna on Tuesday after receiving a bomb threat was given the all-clear by Austrian police after a thorough search.

"The search is over and is negative," said an interior ministry spokesman. The aircraft resumed its flight to Amman later in the day and was due in Amman at 00:25 Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. "The people want to go home, after all," he said.

The Lockheed TriStar wide-bodied jet, en route from Chicago to Amman via Amsterdam, was over former Yugoslavia when the alarm was raised.

According to the official, there were 229 passengers on board the aircraft.

In Amman, an RJ official said the airline had received an anonymous call "warning that a bomb was on the plane," adding that the pilot was ordered to land in Vienna as a precaution.

Syria, Israel's most power-

ful remaining Arab adversary, sent conciliatory signals. The official daily Al Baath urged Mr. Peres to reactivate peace talks and said Mr. Rabin's assassination had left the Middle East with a greater need for peace.

In a display of business as usual, Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials resumed handover talks in Jenin, the first West Bank town to be transferred to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) since self-rule began in Gaza and Jericho 18 months ago.

Twelve Palestinian police officers arrived in Jenin.

"Twelve officers who will take part in joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols arrived Tuesday in Jenin," said PLO representative in Jenin Mussa Qadura.

So far a total of 42 officers have arrived in Jenin since the start of the Israeli army redeployment on Oct. 25.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Mr. Peres agreed at their last meeting in Erez on Oct.

15 to complete the Jenin withdrawal by Nov. 19.

Five other towns are to be evacuated under the deal, to allow Palestinian elections to go ahead, while troops will remain in Hebron.

Mr. Peres, who took over after the assassination, began handling business from the prime minister's office on Tuesday.

Government spokesman Uri Dromi said he expected President Ezer Weizman to ask Mr. Peres to form a new government after the traditional Jewish week of mourning ends next Sunday.

Economics Minister Yossi Beilin, a close Peres ally, told Reuters he hoped the centre-left government would broaden its parliamentary base by bringing in moderate religious parties.

Mr. Rabin's last peace deal with the PLO scraped through the 120-seat Knesset by a single vote. Political analysts said it would be hard to push through a peace deal with Syria involving a with-

drawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Beilin discouraged speculation that Mr. Peres might seek to bring forward the next general election, due on Oct. 29, 1996, to capitalise on the huge wave of sympathy for Mr. Rabin.

"Why should we advance the elections after what happened? Why should we give a prize to the assassins, that they can stop everything by killing the prime minister?" he said.

Mr. Peres was more cautious, saying: "For us the peace process and not the term of the government. I said yesterday (Monday) and I shall repeat it that for us to win peace is more important than even to win the election."

The acting premier dismissed Palestinian fears that the West Bank handover and troop redeployment would be delayed.

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Self-rule back on track
Peres vows to press ahead and resumes implementation of Sept. 28 agreement**Combined agency dispatches**

ISRAEL FORGED ahead with negotiations on Palestinian self-rule on Tuesday after reassuring Arabs that assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had not yet killed Middle East peace.

The government said it was preparing to clamp down on extreme-right incitement to political violence and punish isolated incidents of rejoicing over Mr. Rabin's murder by Jewish militants at a peace rally on Saturday night.

"I shall continue the process of peace that we have started," acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres told reporters after meeting British Prime Minister John Major, one of dozens of foreign leaders at Mr. Rabin's state funeral on Monday.

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(Continued on page 7)

Peres seeks 'peace cabinet'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — New Israeli premier Shimon Peres on Tuesday began behind the scenes talks to set up a new government determined to carry on the peace legacy of slain leader Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Peres, acting premier since Mr. Rabin was gunned down on Saturday, started initial talks with outgoing ministers and party representatives, especially the religious movements, to boost the government coalition.

President Ezer Weizman is due in the coming days to officially charge Mr. Peres with forming a new government, and the right-wing opposition Likud Party has said it would not oppose his appointment.

Sources close to Mr. Peres said it seemed likely he would appoint 53-year-old Interior Minister Ehud Barak for the post when late Monday the two men met with King Hussein.

"Three weeks ago Mr. Peres told AFP: 'Barak will take over from Rabin, when the day comes.'

Mr. Barak, a reserve army general, is the most decorated soldier in the military history of Israel. Described by one of the country's legendary figures, General Moshe Dayan, as "the most courageous Jewish soldier," he took part in all the commando operations carried out by Israel in the past 30 years.

Another candidate for a cabinet post is the head of the powerful trade union body Histadrut, Haim Ramon, who turned his back on Labour in 1993 and set up an independent list.

It would help him form the necessary military-political alliance needed to win over the generals to the politics of peace which he enjoyed with

Rabin it will be more difficult," Tourism Minister Uzi Baram told AFP.

For many in the Labour Party, thrown into turmoil with the death of its leader, only Mr. Barak could come close to working in the same tandem with Mr. Peres as the previous partnership with Mr. Rabin.

Already Mr. Peres seemed to be grooming Mr. Barak for the post when late Monday the two men met with King Hussein.

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(Continued on page 7)

Assassination probe focuses on possible right-wing conspiracy

KFAR TAPUAH, Occupied West Bank (AP) — A day after Yitzhak Rabin's burial, police searched for Jewish extremists Tuesday in this anti-government stronghold, but came up empty-handed after the suspects apparently slipped away.

Police announced they would round up and question militants, but would not say how many, if any, had already been detained.

Israel Radio said police also planned to detain four residents from the militant Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba.

"People who have publicly supported the murder of the prime minister will be investigated," police spokesman Eri Bar-Chen told the Associated Press.

As part of the crackdown, Justice Minister David Libai reportedly plans to propose changes in existing law to make it easier to prosecute militants for incitement.

Police are investigating whether Mr. Rabin's confessed killer, 25-year-old Yigal Amir, and his brother, Hagai, 27, were part of a larger conspiracy.

Israeli media quoted police officials as saying they believed Hagai Amir was a member of Kahane Chai, an anti-Arab group that was outlawed, along with its sister group Kach, after Kach activists killed 12 Baruch Goldstein shot dead 29 Palestinian worshippers in Hebron in February 1994.

Amir, ordered held for seven days as the investiga-

tion continues, has admitted giving Yigal 20 bullets of the type used to shoot Mr. Rabin. The elder Amir also acknowledged that he had been aware of two earlier attempts by his brother to kill Mr. Rabin.

On Tuesday, police conducted searches in Kfar Tapuah, home of several Kahane Chai activists, said a resident and member of the group, Lenny Goldberg, 34.

He said officers knocked on the doors of several Kahane Chai members, but left when they did not find them at home. He said he did not know whether his friends were in hiding.

Mr. Goldberg said he felt joy and relief when Mr. Rabin was killed, comparing Mr. Rabin's assassination to the shooting death of his mentor, New York-born Rabbi Meir Kahane who was murdered, that's the way I felt when Rabin was killed," said Mr. Goldberg speaking outside a Jewish seminary for Kahane disciples in Kfar Tapuah.

"They (Israelis) danced in the streets when Kahane was killed," he said.

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Palestinians seek Iraq food deal

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Palestinian factories could sign in the next few days a supply deal with Iraq, a Palestinian trade official at the Baghdad fair said Tuesday. "Contracts between Palestinian factories and Iraqi traders could be

Rabat: No Sahara referendum if new conditions are set

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco said on Monday he would pull out of a U.N. referendum in the disputed Western Sahara and hold on to the territory "until kingdom come" if conditions of the peace process were not upheld to the letter.

"We adhere to the peace plan and nothing but the peace plan and if that plan is not respected then we do not want a referendum," the king said in a television and radio broadcast.

"We are committed to the peace process that was adopted by the U.N. Security Council... if there is any attempt to skip over some of the conditions stipulated in the peace process, then there will be no referendum," he said.

"We want our adversaries to know that we want the referendum as it was set up by the United Nations. If it is not respected to the letter then let everyone stay where they are until kingdom come. We are in our desert... some of us are drinking water, some of us tea or fruit juice, living within the law in peace and tranquility and respect for human rights."

The king spoke on the 20th anniversary of the "green

March," when he led 350,000 Moroccan men and women waving flags and copies of the Koran to the former Spanish colony to lay Morocco's symbolic claim to the territory.

Within days, Spain handed administration of the territory to Morocco and Mauritania.

The final status of the Western Sahara is to be decided in a much-delayed U.N. referendum under terms agreed after a 1991 ceasefire which ended nearly 20 years of fighting between Moroccan troops and the Algerian-backed Polisario Front.

The king's remarks appeared as a response to new proposals by the U.N. secretary-general on procedures to vet 100,000 people on a list of voters presented by Morocco.

The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) has been compiling a voter list on the basis of a 1974 Spanish census and the Moroccan list falls outside that category.

The Moroccan government was angered that the new U.N. proposals suggested using Spanish documents as proof of eligibility rather than

to be behind us."

The 50-seat parliament is due to debate the inquiry into the government's handling of the crisis.

Its findings issued in August accuse ministers of big mistakes in handling relations with Iraq in the weeks before the invasion and of being ill-prepared to defend the country.

Some deputies want to use the issue to put the government on the defensive before October 1996 parliamentary elections. One Islamist has called for leading ministers to accept responsibility for their alleged mistakes and resign.

The government said the committee had exceeded its mandate, which was to collect facts on which to base future improvements in government decision-making and crisis management.

Deputies defended the report as balanced and lenient.

"The committee judged the situation based on what was — in the end — a surprise to everybody, and not on what it recorded in its report as facts," said a government statement published in Al Watan, Al Qabas and Al Anba newspapers.

"The report said it was not convinced with explanations provided by some senior officials — but it did not provide any reference or confidential source or specialised authority supporting its 'correct' vision," the government said.

Iraq invaded in August 1990 after months of disputes with Kuwait about oil, financial aid and the border. A U.S.-led multinational force liberated the country in February 1991.

Ahmad Baqer, chairman of the inquiry, told reporters the committee had followed its mandate scrupulously, had provided plenty of evidence of failings while also being constructive.

"Our report is very lenient. It's not tough. We didn't ask for anyone's removal or to send any one to court," he said.

Inquiry member and opposition Deputy Abdullah Nibari said: "I don't think the committee overstepped its mandate... the government would like to see this event

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CROWN PRINCE MEETS PERES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with acting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in West Jerusalem on Tuesday when the Crown Prince was there to convey condolences to Israel and the family of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (see page one) (Photo by Boghos)

66 freed in Turkey after law is changed

ANKARA (AFP) — Sixty-six people jailed for spreading separatist propaganda have been released since parliament amended a controversial anti-terrorist law, the Turkish foreign ministry said Tuesday.

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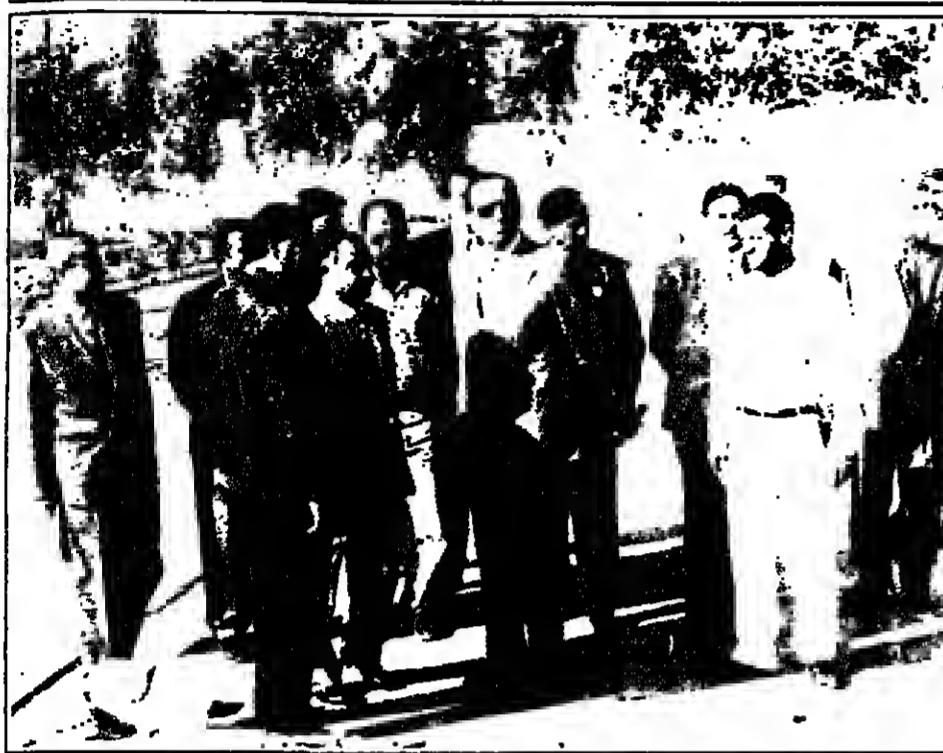
Crown Prince praises performance of official media at MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday sent a message to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki expressing appreciation of the information services' distinguished performance during the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held here last month.

"It is my pleasure to express my pride in the Jordanian media and to voice

my deep thanks for your efforts in organising and executing information plans and arrangements and the excellent coverage of the event," said Prince Hassan.

The excellent and objective performance of the information and media services during the meetings reflected a positive image of the Kingdom, said Prince Hassan adding that these efforts were a source of pride which will be long



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday is briefed by Amman Mayor Mamoun Abbadi on landscaping projects around the Prime Ministry (Petra photo)

Sharif Zeid checks on landscaping projects at ministry grounds

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday inspected work in progress on a statue of His Majesty King Hussein being erected on the grounds of the Prime Ministry to mark the King's 60th birthday.

The prime minister voiced the government's appreciation of the project which is being undertaken by the Amman Municipality and the efforts exerted to finish the work in time for the Nov. 14 anniversary.

When completed the brass statue will weigh nine tonnes and stand seven and a half metres tall by the Fourth Circle. It will be supported by a four-metre high pedestal, according to the municipality.

Earlier this year, the municipality worked on landscaping the gardens

around the Prime Ministry. The improvements to the gardens included the construction of a spacious yard with water fountains that will surround the statue.

Amman Mayor Mamoun Abbadi accompanied the Prime Minister on his inspection tour.

Dr. Abbadi has endorsed a programme of festivities which is to be carried out on Nov. 11 and include a procession starting from the Parliament house through King Hussein Street and ending at Hasbemeh Plaza near the Roman Amphitheatre.

Municipality sources said that nearly 12,000 people in traditional Jordanian costumes, 1,000 from each of the Kingdom's governorates, will take part in the parade, in addition to 4,000 scouts and girl

guides, 4,000 school children, 1,000 students from universities and community colleges, and 1,000 from the Federation of Jordanian Labour unions as well as 500 farmers.

The Jordanian Armed Forces, the security services and the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces Brass Band will also march in the event.

According to the municipality, four large traditional bedouin tents will be pitched up along the route.

Meanwhile, the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) announced

Tuesday that as of Nov. 13, GUVS teams will be visiting needy families, kindergartens, orphanages and senior citizens homes to distribute gifts.

WHAT'S GOING ON	
FILM	
• "Caesar and Cleopatra," at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.	• "The Birth of Movies," at the Royal Cultural Centre.
LECTURE	
• "Jerusalem — Historical Facts and the Cheatings of the Present," in Arabic, by Dr. Ali Qlaibo at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, at 6:00 p.m.	• "Works by Dodi Taba'a entitled "Variations Graphiques 93-95" at the French Cultural Centre.
EXHIBITIONS	
• Works by Akram Abdel Jaber at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.	• "Protex 95 (Middle East Protection and Security Exhibition) and Building 95 (Middle East Building Exhibition) at Amman International Fair, Marj Al Hamam. (Tel. 688141)
• "The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project presents "Winds of Change" its fall exhibition at the Jerusalem Insurance Company in Shmeisani (Tel. 658696)	

Sharif Zeid, visiting Bahraini minister review cooperation in energy fields

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday met with visiting Bahraini Minister of Electricity and Water Abdullah Jumaa and said he was deeply satisfied with the progress in Bahraini-Jordanian cooperation in economic and technical fields.

Sharif Zeid added that Jordan is intent on bolstering its ties with the Arab countries in various fields and will exert all possible efforts to safeguard pan-Arab interests.

After the meeting, attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh and the Bahraini delegation, Mr. Jumaa said that his talks with the Prime Minister covered bilateral relations and cooperation in electricity.

He also said he briefed

Sharif Zeid on a tentative agreement which Bahrain reached with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on joint work in the fields of electricity and energy.

Earlier Tuesday Mr. Jumaa and Mr. Darwazeh held official talks and decided to set up a follow

up committee comprising three members from each country and to be chaired by JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh.

The two sides discussed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in water and electricity matters which will be signed Thursday.

Dr. Ahmad Hiyast, director of the JEA's International Services Department, outlined the two countries' cooperation in water and electricity which began in 1989.

He said two technicians from the Bahraini Ministry of Water and Electricity are currently receiving training at the JEA's training centre in the areas of maintenance of transformer stations within the framework of a programme financed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Following the meeting with Mr. Darwazeh, Mr. Jumaa said that his visit to Jordan aims at familiarising himself with the JEA's services and increasing cooperation between the two countries in power generation and



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday meets with visiting Bahraini Minister of Electricity and Water to review cooperation in energy fields (Petra photo)

designing of electricity networks.

The memorandum, which the two sides plan to sign tomorrow, aims at opening the way for the exchange of

expertise in all matters related to electricity and electric power management, according to a JEA statement. The memo entails exchanging visits by technicians and contacting Arab and foreign financial institutions to secure assistance for joint Jordanian-Bahraini projects.

Italy to grant Jordan \$1.2m in technical cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini Tuesday signed a letter for the concession of grants from the Italian government for 1.95 billion Italian liras (approximately \$1.2 million), within the framework of the technical cooperation agreement between

Italy and Jordan, according to an Italian embassy statement.

These grants will be utilised for the Project for the Development of the Countryside of the Irbid region, the statement said.

Such a project will be carried out by the Italian organisation "Ricerca e Cooperazione" and the

Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

The Italian project aims at improving the economic and social levels of the farmers and the families living in the areas of Taybeh and Bani Kananeh, by creating jobs and improving income levels, so as to diminish rural-urban migration.

Two training centres will be created for the preparation of medium-size enterprises and handicrafts, for which the Italian government will cover the expenses, as well as the costs of the instruments and for the organisation of the training courses.

'Peace, Oh Peace' still to tour Israel, says Nabil Sawalha

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The continuation of the peace process in the immediate aftermath of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination is not only the cry of world leaders and politicians, but of artists too.

Meanwhile, the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) announced

Tuesday that as of Nov. 13, GUVS teams will be visiting needy families, kindergartens, orphanages and senior citizens homes to distribute gifts.

was neither standing in one camp nor another.

Mr. Sawalha also believes that the majority of people are not perturbed by the actors' appearances on Israel Television or their performances in Israel.

Earlier this year, Mr. Yanis, who co-writes the

scripts and performs alongside Mr. Sawalha, received a letter from the Jordanian Writers' Association, in which he is a member.

The title of the play "Peace, Oh Peace" is to be suffixed by "In memory of the peace makers."

Despite Mr. Rabin's assassination on Saturday night, Mr. Sawalha said that the play's content would not be changed.

"We will not be taking anything out of the play. It is not to delay it for too long. Peace and normalisation must push on. To delay (the tour) too much would also contribute to the slowing up of the whole process," said Nabil Sawalha Tuesday.

The play opens with Cain's killing of Abel and includes the visit of the late Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem, the peace talks in Madrid, the Oslo agreement, and skits portraying His Majesty King Hussein, Palestine National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat as well as Mr. Rabin, added Mr. Sawalha.

Referring to the company's specialisation in political satire, Mr. Sawalha stated that the company held no personal vendettas and

was neither standing in one camp nor another.

The Israeli authorities confirmed yesterday that the tour could start next Sunday and would include a meeting with Mr. Rabin's wife, Leah.

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50 businessmen head for talks in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — A team of 50 businessmen from Jordan Wednesday will open a meeting with the Egyptian business community in Cairo on prospects for launching new joint ventures in industry, land reclamation and food production, according to Ghazi Batarseh, head of the Jordanian Commercial Centre here.

Mr. Batarseh said the Egyptian business community, which will be represented by a 70-member team, will discuss with its Jordanian counterparts increasing trade exchanges which currently total around \$200 million annually, equally divided between the two sides.

He said the meeting is the first of the Jordanian-Egyptian Business Council to be held after the convening of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held in Amman late last month.

The Jordanian delegation led by Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabba'a arrived in Cairo Tuesday afternoon.

The Egyptian side will be led by Saeed Tawel, head of the Egyptian Businessmen's Association.

Before his departure from Amman, Mr. Tabba'a said that the meeting will be the sixth by the joint business council and will last several days.

The two teams he said, will submit working papers dealing with Jordanian-Egyptian economic relations.

The joint business council, which was created in 1985, he added, last met in Amman in April, 1993.

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Sri Lanka suspends top official in Jaffna region

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government, preparing to send relief to Tamil refugees fleeing the Jaffna war, suspended its top administrator for the region Tuesday, accusing him of giving misleading reports of the situation.

Industries Minister C.V. Gooneratne told parliament that K. Ponnambalam was suspended for giving the government false reports on the refugees and food shortages in the northern Jaffna peninsula where troops are battling Tamil rebels.

In recent weeks, Mr. Ponnambalam has reportedly reported food shortages among the refugees fleeing the fighting as well as citing civilian casualties caused by shelling and air attacks.

Mr. Ponnambalam, currently in Colombo to organise food supplies to the north, was not immediately available for comment.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga told a news conference earlier this year that Mr. Ponnambalam was a virtual hostage of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) when working in the rebel-held areas of the peninsula.

Last week Mr. Ponnambalam said some 400,000 Tamils had fled their homes to avoid the fighting.

Western relief agencies have also put the refugee figure at between 300,000 and 400,000.

But Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar

Monday put the number of people displaced at around 100,000.

He said the government was doing all it could to help the refugees, said by aid agencies to be facing starvation and disease.

The rebels have begun recruiting school children from new refugee camps to fill their ranks after heavy losses in recent clashes with government troops, aid workers and residents in rebel-held areas of the peninsula.

Government troops have reached the outskirts of Jaffna town after a two-week long push, fiercely resisted by the LTTE seeking a homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east.

The military estimates some 1,000 rebels have been killed in the fighting and puts its own losses at 221 killed and 536 wounded. More than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year war.

The rebels have all but abandoned the town from where they ran a virtual mini-state in Sri Lanka's north.

The military says it is in no rush to enter the town, believed to be heavily laid with mines and booby-traps.

A military source said heavy rain was hindering the army's advance.

A Western diplomatic source said any push on Jaffna town, if it comes, could be as many as 10 days to two weeks away.

Azerbaijani authorities arrest man for trying to kill president

BAKU (AP) — Azerbaijani authorities Monday announced the arrest of a former police commander suspected of plotting to kill President Geydar Aliyev.

Fazil Bakhshaliyev, who headed an elite police unit in the Agdam region, planned to down Mr. Aliyev's plane with the help of a guided Strela-3 rocket, said Interior Minister Ramil Usubov.

Mr. Bakhshaliyev has been on the wanted list since his involvement in the failed coup by special police forces in the Azerbaijani capital Baku last March, and was arrested three days ago, Mr. Usubov said.

He has been charged with state treason, which carries a maximum death penalty.

According to Mr. Usubov, Mr. Bakhshaliyev went into hiding in a country home of Azerbaijan's Labour Party leader, Mamedali Aliyev, where he also met with former top Defence Ministry officials.

The group worked out a plan to eliminate Mr. Aliyev during the president's return from a trip abroad. Mr. Bakhshaliyev was given the rocket launcher and taught how to use it, but the plan failed because Mr. Aliyev's plane returned along a changed course, said Mr. Usubov.

Mr. Usubov did not reveal when or where the assassination was supposed to take place. He said Mamedali Aliyev is presently on the run.

The minister identified the alleged plotters as followers of President Ayaz Matalibov, who was ousted by nationalists in 1992 and since then has lived in Moscow.

The nationalist leader, Abulfaz Elchibey, was in turn deposed by Mr. Aliyev — Azerbaijan's former Communist boss — in 1993.

In recent months, Azerbaijani authorities have launched a crackdown on suspected militants loyal to Mr. Matalibov.

There has also been a general crackdown on the opposition ahead of the Nov. 12 legislative elections in the oil-rich former Soviet republic on the Caspian Sea.

Police waited before coming to aid of Canadian premier

OTTAWA (R) — Police surrounding Prime Minister Jean Chretien took six or seven minutes to respond after his wife reported a knife-wielding man had broken into their official residence, senior police officials said Monday.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Phil Murray said the Mounties had launched a probe into how security at the 24 Sussex Drive residence could have so grossly violated and how this could be prevented in future.

"Quite clearly the fact this incident occurred is completely unacceptable," Mr. Murray told a news conference. "Our operational procedures require an immediate response."

"We're going to get to the bottom of it and determine why there were shortcomings in security and most importantly to make sure this kind of incident doesn't occur in the future."

Coming early on Sunday morning just 12 hours after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, the incident shocked Canadians, and federal Solicitor-General Herb Gray said he expected a thorough report within a week or two.

There have already been enhancements of security measures at 24 Sussex in

light of the incident," Mr. Gray told reporters, adding that this was the first incident of its kind.

A 34-year-old convenience store worker, Andre Dallaire, was charged in an Ottawa courtroom Monday with attempted murder of the prime minister among other charges.

Dressed in jeans and a blue jacket, the quiet, bespectacled man was ordered for psychiatric tests at the Royal Ottawa Hospital. He made no comment.

Officials said no officers had been suspended. A senior RCMP agent, unconnected with the prime minister's security, is making the inquiry.

The break-in highlighted a string of security shortfalls. Mounties on guard first surrounded the house in an apparent attempt to stop the intruder's escape before entering and arresting Mr. Dallaire six or seven minutes after Aline Chretien's call. The delay drew heavy fire from local media.

Police, without giving details, also said the intruder was on the grounds of the official residence for at least 44 minutes, most of that time undetected. He was able to break a glass door — the noise that seemed to have alerted Mrs. Chretien.

McNamara returns to face Vietnam

HANOI (R) — Former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara returned to Vietnam Tuesday two decades after the end of a war he helped shape and which he now admits was "terribly wrong".

As rain from typhoon Angela lashed Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport a commercial airliner carrying Mr. McNamara touched down just a few hundred yards from the patchwork of wartime bomb craters which still litters the final runway approach.

Mr. McNamara, 79, a key strategist and architect of

the Vietnam War, did not speak to journalists as he left the airport by limousine for Hanoi.

However, as his car pulled up at a hotel he told reporters he had come to Vietnam to heal old wounds. "(I came here) to see if Vietnam and the U.S. could draw lessons from what was a tragedy for both of us," he said.

Mr. McNamara's three-day visit to Hanoi, which formally begins Wednesday, will see him come face to face with a country which still bears many scars of the conflict.

He refused Tuesday to disclose details of his agenda. Vietnamese officials said earlier the trip would be closed to media coverage because of "U.S. sensitivities surrounding the visit".

The statement said the girl found her way home, where her family called the police. She was kept in hospital for two weeks.

A statement submitted on the girl's behalf by the prosecution said: "I get scared whenever I see a foreigner on the streets now. I hope they will be kept in jail as long as they live."

The paper quoted unidentified sources as saying that



Two Sri Lankan policewomen search bags of Tamil travellers at a railway station. Travellers coming to or leaving Vavuniya are checked for hidden weapons (AFP photo)

Foreign writers share French literature prize

PARIS (AFP) — Two foreign nationals writing in French were jointly awarded the Prix Medicis 1995, one of France's top literary prizes, officials said. Russian Andrei Makine and Greek Vassilis Alexakis shared the top prize for, respectively, *Le Testament Francais* (The French Testament) and *La Langue Maternelle* (Mother Tongue). Makine, 38, has lived in France for eight years. Alexakis, 50, has lived between Paris and Athens since 1968. Meanwhile the Medicis Foreign Prize went to Italian Alessandro Baricco for *Les Chateaux De La Colere* (The Castles Of Anger). The Prix Femina 1995, chosen by an all-women jury, was awarded to Emmanuel Carrere for her novel *La Classe De Neige* (The Snow Class). Dutch writer Jeroen Brouwers won the Foreign Femina Prize for *Rouge Decante* (Red Decanted).

Men should be protected from rape — Swazi politicians

MBABANE (AFP) — Male members of Swaziland's parliament have asked the government to introduce a law protecting men and boys from rape and sexual harassment by women, the South African Press Agency (SAPA) reported Monday. Deputy Robert Mhawali said in a proposal to Justice Minister Maweni Simelane that it is becoming common for men and young boys to be seduced by women. He said that fact that Swaziland's rape laws protected only women, is discriminatory, and they should be amended to protect both sexes, SAPA reported. In Swazi society, men who are seduced or raped by women are often "too shy or embarrassed to report it to the police, or even to their own wives".

Mr. Bennett had Democratic partners in both ventures, and President Bill Clinton years ago criticised violence and other aspects of popular culture. Still, Hollywood generally finds Democrats more compatible with its needs and world perspective.

In a recent interview, Mr. Bono said he wishes prominent Republicans would call a ceasefire in the culture war.

"As a party we don't want to condemn (entertainment executives) and say you better straighten out your act," Mr. Bono said. "We'd rather have them participate in solutions."

3 elephants die while being moved

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Three elephants died after being shot with tranquilising darts while in transit from one Kenya wildlife preserve to another, the Kenya Wildlife Service said Monday. The three were part of a family of six elephants being moved Sunday from a sanctuary in northwest Kenya to Tsavo National Park in the southeast, J.M. Kioko, a spokesman for the service, said. Mr. Kioko said wildlife service scientists, assisted by Zimbabwean specialist Clem Coelice, noticed that the elephants were under stress immediately after being shot with the darts. The three elephants died within a couple of hours despite scientists' efforts to revive them, Mr. Kioko said. The other three survived unbarred. Mr. Kioko said the planned move of other elephants to Tsavo has been suspended pending the results of a postmortem on the dead elephants to determine the exact cause of death.

Some Haitian officials said they doubt there is enough time to stage a credible election. U.N. election experts had said it would be organised by the army to allow for at least three months to arrange a date.

"How can correct elections be held (even) in two months?" asked Sen. Jean-Pierre Lavalas.

The Clinton administration, eager to see one elected government transfer power to another for the first time in Haiti's history, had pressed Mr. Aristide for months to set an election date.

The international community is paying the \$7.9 million election costs, including \$1.3 million from the United States.

The June 25 legislative elections were marred by voting irregularities. Tens of thousands of citizens were unable to cast ballots.

Makeup elections in July and September were boycotted by all the major parties except the three-party Lavalas coalition.

Mr. Aristide, who enjoys overwhelming popular support, repeatedly assured U.S. officials in private that he intended to step down on Feb. 7, the date for inaugurating a new president.

But he did little in public to silence popular demands for "three more years" to make up for the three years he spent in exile after the army overthrew him in 1991. At least 4,000 civilians were killed by the military and its paramilitary allies before a U.S.-led multinational force restored Aristide to office in October 1994.

After decades of authoritarian governments, many

Haiti sets election for Dec. 17

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Ending months of uncertainty over the political ambitions of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti said Monday it will hold presidential elections on Dec. 17.

Pierre Michel Sajous, president of the Provisional Electoral Council, said the council was slow to set a date because it wanted first to "assure that everything is in place."

Four of Haiti's five biggest political parties promised to boycott the ballot if it were organised by the current council, which they accuse of rigging June legislative elections to favour Mr. Aristide's Lavalas Platform Coalition.

Only two candidates have said they will run.

"What the council is doing is a hoax, the council is doing a rubs job, with the obvious intention to put a Lavalas candidate into the president's office," said former President Leslie Manigat, head of the National Progressive Democratic Rally.

"There is no question of our participating in a phony election," added former Sen. Turneb Delpo. "The Electoral Council is not credible."

The statement said that during the ordeal the girl was punched in the face and body a number of times.

After the attack, the girl was untied and allowed to flee.

The statement said the girl found her way home, where her family called the police. She was kept in hospital for two weeks.

A statement submitted on the girl's behalf by the prosecution said: "I get scared whenever I see a foreigner on the streets now. I hope they will be kept in jail as long as they live."

The paper quoted unidentified sources as saying that

Mr. Delpe is a leader of the centre-left National Front for Change and Democracy that helped propose Mr. Aristide for president in 1990.

Mr. Aristide was elected to a five-year term and, under the constitution, cannot seek re-election until 2000.

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After decades of authoritarian governments, many

Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told a news briefing when asked to comment on the report.

The sources told the paper that Mr. Deng did not have a clear mind, and although he could still recognise President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, his state of health did not allow him to do administrative work.

"Hong Kong often has some news which has no basis," Chinese Foreign

Titanic souvenir hunters offered lump of coal

WASHINGTON (R) — Pieces of coal from the *Titanic* went on sale, the first items recovered from the wreckage of the luxury liner made available to the public. The pieces of coal, about the size of half a golf ball, can be bought for \$25 each from RMS Titanic Inc., the company that plans a worldwide exhibition of artifacts from the ship. The British liner, said to be "unsinkable" when it was built, collided with an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland on the night of April 14, 1912, and went down with at least 1,500 of the 2,200 people on its maiden voyage.

WASHINGTON (R) — A piece of coal from the *Titanic* which sank 90 years ago was recovered from the ocean floor by a U.S. space shuttle. The coal, which was recovered from the ocean floor by a U.S. space shuttle, was recovered from the ocean floor by a U.S. space shuttle.

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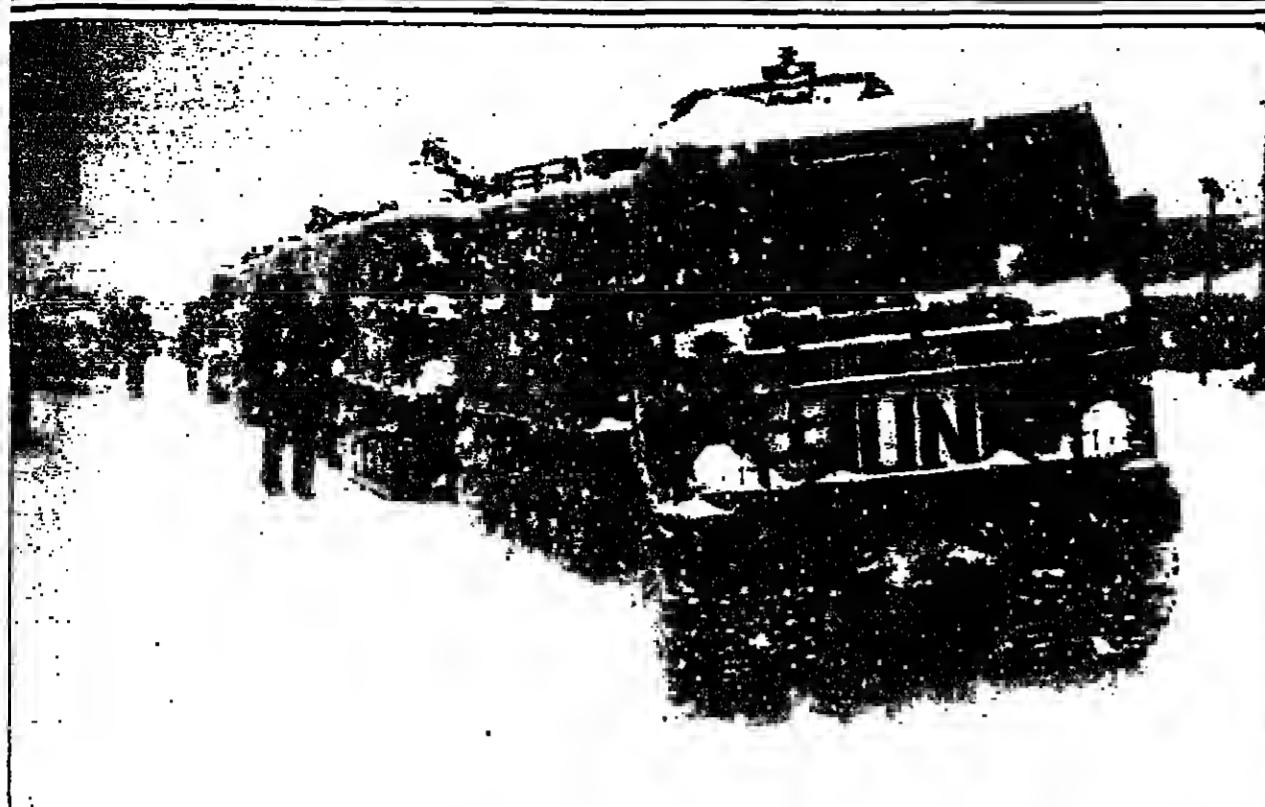
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ACCIDENT ON MOUNT IGMAN: A convoy of Dutch vehicles ferry injured soldiers to mount Igman where members of the 5 Field Ambulance administer emergency medical treatment after a coach carrying soldiers belonging to the army of the Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina came off the road as a result of severe weather conditions. British, French and Dutch troops based on Igman joined in the rescue of the injured men, three of whom died in the accident (AFP photo)

4 Russians killed in Chechenya, another bridge blown

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Three Russian soldiers and a military woman were killed in Chechenya while rebels intensified their attacks against federal troops, officials said Tuesday.

Three of the victims were killed in two chance clashes Monday in Grozny, the Chechen capital.

One incident involved unknown assailants who opened fire from a car at a Chechen man in central Grozny in an attack described as part of a vendetta, the Interfax News

Agency reported. The man, trying to escape, ran toward a Russian military post, exposing the servicemen to a hail of bullets that killed him along with two soldiers, the agency reported.

In another incident, a Chechen passer-by shot dead a Russian military woman in Grozny's main outdoor market after the victim argued with a vendor over the price of a camera film.

The Chechen also fired his pistol at a Russian soldier who rushed to help.

wounding him in the head, reports said. Other servicemen opened fire to scare off the crowd, wounding one civilian.

The military command

said rebels fired on Russian

troops in 45 separate inci-

ents overnight, with 34 of

them in Grozny.

The rebels also blew up a

bridge near Grozny while a

freight train was crossing it.

Two carriages were

derailed.

Moscow sent about

40,000 troops into Chechenya in December to crush the

republic's separatist drive.

Mandela's security stepped up after Rabin murder

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Security around South African President Nelson Mandela and members of his cabinet has been increased following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the police chief said Tuesday.

"We simply cannot afford to think that we are immune to such lunacy," Police Commissioner George Fivaz said in a statement.

"Distinct parallels exist between the Israeli-Palestinian and South African political processes and it would be disastrous if especially the leaders of the major parties of the government of national unity were harmed in any way," he said.

Mr. Rabin was shot dead by a right-wing Jewish

assassin after addressing a peace rally in Tel Aviv Saturday.

The Sowetan, South Africa's largest black circulation newspaper, quoted Mr. Fivaz as saying: "Rabin's assassination is a tragedy. But we must learn from it."

Mr. Fivaz, appointed by Mr. Mandela to root out racism in the post-apartheid police, said in his statement he had ordered police responsible for the safety of Mr. Mandela, his deputies Thabo Mbeki and F.W. De Klerk, and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to be put on full alert following Mr. Rabin's murder.

"Although not in response to any specific identified threat, the purpose of my instruction is to avoid com-

placency and learn from the Israeli tragedy," the commissioner said.

The order also applied to other members of the government of national unity, he said.

In June, Mr. Fivaz ordered a review of Mandela's security after a journalist was allowed to carry a gun within a few feet of the president. A member of the police VIP protection unit allowed a reporter to keep a personal handgun during a lecture delivered by Mr. Mandela at a Johannesburg theatre.

Mr. Mandela, 77, said Monday that stringent security measures did not always guarantee safety for world leaders.

"You must have security but even when you have a hundred men around you

4 shot dead, 1 wounded in Boston restaurant

BOSTON (R) — Four men were shot to death and another was critically wounded Monday when two gunmen walked into a crowded restaurant in Boston's Charlestown district and opened fire on them at their lunch table.

The shooting occurred during the peak lunch hour when two gunmen entered the ninety nine restaurant, got into an argument with the victims at their table and then pumped several shots into them at close range, police said.

Police Capt. Edward McNally confirmed that four men had been killed and a

fifth was rushed to Massachusetts General Hospital with a serious gunshot wound in the stomach. The suspects were arrested as they ran into a parking lot near the restaurant where a getaway car was waiting.

Witnesses said two off-duty policemen, who were having lunch at the restaurant, chased the gunmen as they left the spot, shouted at them to "freeze" and arrested them before they could get into the car.

Police declined to comment on the possible motive for the shooting. Asked at a news conference whether it was a gangland execution,

Boston Police Commissioner Paul Evans responded, "If it was a hit, it was a very sloppy hit — broad daylight and in a crowded restaurant."

Police identified the suspects as Damian Clemente, 20, and Vicent Perez, 27, both of the Boston area. The victims were not identified.

Witnesses said luncheon patrons dived to the floor when the shooting started. Four bodies were seen sprawled on the floor or slumped in chairs.

"There were five shots. They were muffed shots. It didn't really sound like a gun," said bartender Lisa

Space radar shows Sahara site of continental crash

WASHINGTON (R) — The site of a colossal smashup of supercontinents 650 million years ago was disclosed on radar images made from the U.S. space shuttle, scientists reported Monday.

The same radar also gave geologists insight into the devastating 1993 floods along the Mississippi River and the mysterious undulating course of the Nile, and could have potential for finding oil, groundwater or even gold.

Peering beneath the Earth's surface to detect deep fissures and folds, space radar detected the spot in the middle of the Sahara where the ancient continents collided, scientist Robert Stern said in a telephone interview.

The continental crash

occurred some 650 million years ago, in an era of so-called supercontinents, including one that geologists call East Gondwana — consisting of present-day Australia, Antarctica and India — and West Gondwana, comprised of Africa and North and South America.

The collision zone, located in northern Sudan in an area called the Kerat Suture, represents the joining of parts of East and West Gondwana into an even bigger land mass, known as Greater Gondwana, said Mr. Stern, a geologist at the University of Texas at Dallas who was part of a radar-analysing team.

On the surface, the continental juncture is not much to look at, Mr. Stern said. The continental crash

simply a broad, flat area of blowing sand. But the radar images, taken from space shuttle Endeavour in April and October 1994, show a region of extensive folds and a large fault where the continents butted together.

The geological havoc wreaked by this crash extends for hundreds of kilometres to the Red Sea, and huge rocks that were deformed in the process may be responsible for an S-curve in the Nile, Mr. Stern said.

"If you can see this kind of a structure (using space radar) then you could be able to see other kinds of structures, including oil, groundwater and gold," Mr. Stern said, speaking from New Orleans where the radar findings were presented

Major accepts parliamentary rebuff

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major bowed to the will of parliament Tuesday after it delivered a stinging rebuff to his efforts to keep members' business earnings secret.

Legislators voted Monday night by a majority of 51, far greater than expected, in favour of an opposition motion to require all members to make their earnings from consultancy work open to public scrutiny.

Newspapers labelled the defeat humiliating and said it raised questions about Mr. Major's leadership.

Twenty-three ruling Conservatives, reflecting public concern on MPs' earnings, sided with opposition parties to inflict the first key defeat on the government for 12 months.

Conservative MPs blamed Mr. Major, absent in Israel

for the funeral of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, for the defeat. One

"rebel", David Martin, said:

"The prime minister listened to the wrong advice on this matter of disclosure."

Labour lost no time in pressing home its advantage.

"I find it extraordinary the prime minister managed in fact to take such a reactionary stance and an awful lot of his troops today will be wondering how on earth he got them into that mess."

Labour's business manager, Donald Dewar, told BBC Radio.

Mr. Major, speaking before leaving Israel, said he still believed a compromise allowing MPs to keep earnings secret but banning them from paid lobbying activity, was the right one.

But be told Britain's Sky

News

Television:

"Parliament last night

decided differently and that is parliament's right."

The vote was not an issue of

confidence for the government.

The proposal to make public MPs' consultancy earnings came from an independent committee set up by Mr. Major himself under a senior judge, Lord Michael Nolan, after a string of sleaze scandals involving ruling party members and ministers.

The Conservatives, traditionally the party of big business in Britain, are the chief benefactors from consultancy work. Labour's main paymasters are the trade unions.

Among the Conservative rebels were several MPs who had been involved in "sleaze" allegations and were keen to bolster their reputation before a general election which must be held in the next 18 months.

Monday's vote was

described by the Today newspaper as "one of the most devastating blows of

his premiership". The Conservatives trail Labour in opinion polls by 30 points ahead of an election due by mid-1997.

MPs now have until April to declare earnings. Labour predicts a rush to end consultancy contracts before then.

Some ruling party MPs are reported to be considering stepping down at the next election because the new rules will make it harder for them to top up what they regard as their modest £33,189 (\$52,350) parliamentary salary.

One Conservative MP was angry enough to consider defying the new rules. Sir Michael Neuberger said: "I do have to think very carefully about whether I observe this new rule of the House (of Commons). It's not the law of the land."

Storm leaves 1.3 million Filipinos in misery

MANILA (R) — The Philippines mobilised cars, trucks, ships and planes Tuesday in a massive relief operation for 1.3 million people affected by typhoon Angela, which ravaged half of the country and killed hundreds.

About 650,000 people crammed into evacuation centres on the main island of Luzon while tens of thousands remained stranded in flooded homes in remote areas, waiting for helicopters to drop food, clothes and medicine, relief officials said.

"It's possible that many of those missing are already dead," Ms. Luces said.

At least 133 people remain unaccounted for. More than 1,200 were injured.

The typhoon, the most vicious to hit the Philippines in almost a decade, has frayed the nerves of some survivors.

A postmaster died of a heart attack Monday night in Lucena City, 100 kilometres southeast of Manila, when a local radio station broadcast an incorrect report that Mount Banahaw volcano had erupted.

U.S. not yet ready to select NATO leader

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it was not ready to back Dutchman Ruud Lubbers for NATO secretary-general and the search for other candidates should continue.

"We just don't know where this process is leading," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

"We need to continue our discussions with our allies and reach a consensus decision, but it's not possible to have one yet because the discussion hasn't reached that point where a decision can be made," he said.

He insisted Washington does not have a favourite in the race and "We're looking at a number of candidates."

It was unclear just how serious a problem Washington had with Mr. Lubbers personally.

But officials acknowledged privately that the Clinton administration was

annoyed at France and other Europeans for pressuring the former Dutch prime minister's case publicly and hence seeming to challenge U.S. leadership of the alliance.

President Bill Clinton and most of his top aides had little contact with Mr. Lubbers and less with his only rival, former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Eilemann-Jensen, before they declared their candidacies, U.S. officials told Reuters.

"We felt it was important to have a full discussion with the Europeans about the candidates and not be rushed into a choice," said one U.S. official, who acknowledged the United States was slowing down the selection process.

To date, France, Germany, Britain, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and Spain have declared support for Mr. Lubbers.

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Peace can win

THE IMPRESSIVE assembly of so many world leaders at the funeral of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday was, above all, a living testimony to international commitment to the continuation of the peace process in the Middle East. Those who had expected or hoped for the demise of the peace effort in the aftermath of Rabin's assassination were effectively served notice that all the major capitals of the world remain solidly behind the search for an honourable solution.

U.S. President Bill Clinton may have summed up the feeling of all the leaders who took part in the funeral when he expressed the strong conviction that there will be peace in the region. For his part, His Majesty King Hussein was equally unequivocal on Jordan's faith in the eventual triumph of peace-loving forces and of this country's lasting commitment to the cause. Those who took comfort in the death of the Israeli prime minister thinking that the peace process had suffered a blow from which it cannot recover had better think again. For one thing, the acting prime minister, Shimon Peres, can be expected to follow through on the Israeli government's pledges and plans to advance the process. The announcement yesterday that Palestinian elections will take place as originally planned and that the redeployment of Israeli soldiers will also proceed in accordance with the timetable agreed upon is clear evidence that the aim and ideology of the assassin and people of his ilk will not succeed in stemming the tide of history.

For another reason, the larger rightist parties in Israel are coming under increasing pressure not only to tone their virulent rhetoric against the Israeli-Palestinian accords but also to moderate, even change, their actual opposition to them. In fact that pressure might soon begin to produce positive results if only because the world, and the Israelis themselves, will no longer tolerate bankrupt policies which only stand to deepen hatred and fanaticism in a region that has suffered violence and strife for too long.

Still, these expectations would not in themselves erase the lingering problems that impede comprehensive peace and stability. There were serious obstacles before the assassination of Rabin and there remain hurdles after his departure from the scene. What is going to strengthen or weaken the quest for a permanent and just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, however, will probably have more to do with the way the post-Rabin era is handled than with the killing itself. The fact that a Jew killed a fellow Jew is important. But it does not tell the whole story of what is going to happen next in the region as a whole. In the final analysis the future of Middle East peace will be decided upon by how successfully the parties negotiate the remaining issues that separate them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NONE of those who delivered speeches at the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin has described the assassination of the late prime minister of Israel as a terrorist act or that Yigal Amir, the assassin, as a terrorist, said a writer in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The whole Israeli society and the Arab countries as well as the world community realise that it was a premeditated murder perpetrated by extremist and terrorist groups in Israel, which oppose the peace process and refuse to give back to the Palestinians their legitimate rights, said Salah Jarra. At the same time, if an Arab child has thrown a stone on an Israeli military vehicle, his act would be regarded as a terrorist attack, which should be confronted with the most severe measures on the part of the Israeli forces, which could result in breaking the bones of the child and holding him in detention for a long time, according to the writer. By avoiding the use of the terms 'terrorist' in describing Yigal Amir, Arab, Israeli and world media seem all agreed that such term can only be used to describe Arabs and Muslims and nations seeking to regain their freedom and dignity, continued the writer. He said a Jew, an American or a European who commits brutal crimes and massacres against the Arabs is never described as a terrorist. Therefore, he added, it is only logical that resistance activities by the Palestinians and the Lehanese, who seek to liberate their occupied lands, should never be described as acts of terrorism even if such activities cause the death of their adversaries.

NOW THAT he was offered the reins of the Labour Party and the government of Israel, Shimon Peres will find that he has a full agenda and difficult tasks at the domestic and foreign levels, said a writer in Al Ra'i daily, Ihsan Bustami said that there is no doubt that Mr. Peres will go ahead with the implementation of deals his predecessor had reached with the Palestinians, but he will not rush negotiations with the Palestinians over the Jewish settlements, the refugees or the future status of Jerusalem. By following such policy, Mr. Peres will no doubt be seeking voters support for his Labour Party in the 1996 parliamentary elections, especially as he has pleased a good sector of the Israeli society by recently declaring Jerusalem as the united and eternal capital of Israel, continued the writer. He said Mr. Peres is expected to follow in Mr. Rabin's steps in matters pertaining to the protection of the Jewish settlers and in dealing with Syria and Lebanon, and in other sensitive issues in order to secure the Labour Party's unity behind his back and guarantee success for this party in the coming elections.

No room for appeasement

By Samer Bedar

THERE IS no mistaking that few events have evoked emotions as contradictory for the modern Arab as the assassination of one 73-year-old man in Tel Aviv three days ago. Where the black and white areas of the major watershed in our recent history have been easy to identify, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination confronts everything that is grey in the Arab psyche. Indeed, were he one man, figuratively speaking, the Arab is questioning not only deep-rooted convictions and notions of right or wrong, but actual feelings towards such basic instincts as animosity and vindictiveness on one hand, and humility and generosity, on the other.

Nothing exemplifies this better than comparing the chador-clad child photographed distributing sweets in celebration in Beirut and the photograph of sombre Arab mourners attending the funeral in Jerusalem. The first expresses the confused relief of a frustrated people whose land remains occupied, while the second expresses the grief of part-

ners in an arduous young venture whose fruits have yet to be collected. Both emotions are undoubtedly genuine, but both cannot be morally equal.

The price has been high, but the mainstream on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide has decided to come to terms with the demographic, economic and historical realities of the Middle East.

The two Gulf wars, the break-up of the Soviet Union, and an economic whirlwind since the middle of the eighties have brought the Arab mainstream to the rude awakening that growth and development — social, economic, and political — were antithetical to a petrified frame of reference built around an on-going yet inactive war of eradication against an enemy who has otherwise established very real military, economic, and diplomatic dominance.

For the Israeli mainstream, the six-year-long intifada and the perceived threat from Iraq were sombre reminders that military victory and suppression were not to be the ultimate arbitrators between the peoples of the Middle East, but that

dialogue, compromise, and eventually, cooperation had to be the way for a safe and liveable future.

This mainstream on both sides decided to turn the page on the old world of total winners and absolute losers, and embark on the challenging venture that peace is.

The peripheral fringe, on the other hand, has not accepted the same conclusions and has remained committed to older notions of right and wrong. In Tel Aviv, on Saturday, and in public for the whole world to see, the fringe had its say, exposing with three shots delivered in less than a minute the frailty of a peace that has been made to fix the wrongs of the past five decades.

The point was not lost on those who rejoiced on the Arab side, either, and who were eager to highlight the ease with which this peace may be dismantled. Their fuel is the injustice and transgressions of recent history, and there is an abundance of that on both sides, from sanctioned assassination in Malta to exploding vans in Tel Aviv.

For the fringe to succeed

is for the region to return to dismemberment and petrification. Those who see this as the vision for the future are in the dark because, as far as sensible men are concerned, no one stands to benefit from the absence of peace in the Middle East.

That does not change the convictions of the peripheral fringe on both sides who believe themselves accountable to a different set of moralities than what the mainstream holds as sensible. But as the assassination on Saturday proves, the fringe is not without influence.

For the mainstream to succeed, as sensible men would wish it, basic issues have to be accommodated. First and foremost, the momentum that has been generated by the peace process to date has to be sustained.

More directly to the point, the initiative can only come from the one party which has anything tangible to offer. Much of the fuel that drives the fringe on the Arab side is derived from the misguided notion that peace can be sustained by isolating Syria. In an age where wars are decided in the skies rather than on

land, procrastination on the return of occupied land can only compromise the credibility of the peace drive.

Appeasing the fringe is not an option. However, it is incumbent on all parties to the peace process to deal with their peripheral fringes, possibly starting by eliminating the double talk. Public opinion has been ready for the final verdict on future relations between the peoples of the Middle East for quite a while. The ambiguous and often contradictory signals about unresolved issues such as the future of the settlements and of Jerusalem are also part of the ammunition which fuels the fringe's drive against the peace process.

It is critical to protect this peace, not simply because the peoples of the region have grown tired and wish to realise its economic potential, but because civilisation must prevail and because war amongst people must be the exception, not the rule.

The writer is a marketing executive for the British Bank of the Middle East. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Mobile style

Last week the Jordan Times published an article on mobile telephones in Israel, which have become a status symbol in that country. According to the author, one now feels virtually naked without his mobile. It is a reflection on the dynamism of the Jordanian people that, in the short period since the introduction of mobile phones, we have contrived to copy the trend.

Walk into a gathering in Amman, and the odds are that people will be comparing the merits of their respective mobiles. Admit that you are not equipped with one, and your friends will stare down their noses at you, as they drift in the general direction of away. You will be cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

I reflected on this as I settled down with some friends at our regular watering hole. The sooth-

ing hum of chatter and laughter was constantly interrupted by shrill ringing noises, until we wondered if we had been beamed into a space-invader game. At the sound of this call, hands abandoned their idle pursuits and jerked to the hip with agility that would have done credit to John Wayne. At

any moment of time, there was at least one person with a finger stuck in one ear, and a mobile telephone held firmly against the other.

I tried to imagine the human drama surrounding these conversations: People trying to impress their interlocutors by having an associate in the sub-

terfuge call them at five minute intervals, wives telling their husbands that dinner is getting cold, people telling their spouses that they will be delayed at work or at the hairdresser's, the same people then calling their paramours to arrange a tryst, the sceptical spouse calling back to ascertain from background noises the true whereabouts of the one to be loved, honoured and obeyed. But perhaps my romantic nature is getting the better of me. Is it not possible that business decisions of great importance and urgency are behind the incessant calls?

Well, really? Is there a trip within Amman that is likely to last longer than 20 minutes? How many of us have had to make decisions that could not wait 20 minutes? Has the pace of life in Amman changed to that extent without my noticing it? Or are we simply following the doctrine of one-upmanship that guides consumer societies: "Buy now, think of the utility of your purchase later"?

If this is the case, let me inform all the proud owners of mobile phones that they do not impress me, for I have one-upped them. Amuse yourselves with your tinkling toys as well you may, but I am the one that has undergone the true test of valour, and come out with flying colours. Yours proudly has gone where no man dares to tread, done battle where the fray is thickest, and emerged victorious. I have applied for a normal telephone from the Telecommunications Corporation, and I have actually received it.

Rabin assassin knocks out main pillar of peace in Israel

By Robert Mahoney

Reuter

TEL AVIV — With three rapid shots a right-wing law student not only robbed Israel of its Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin but also toppled one of the main pillars of Middle East peace.

For most Israelis the peace process was Yitzhak Rabin.

He alone had the political and military credibility to press peace agreements with the PLO and Arab states on a split parliament and a deeply divided society.

His assassination a year before an Israeli general election has placed a question mark over the entire U.S.-led drive to end half a century of war and enmity between Arab and Jew.

The killing has embarras-

sed the right wing which opposed Mr. Rabin's historic 1993 handshake with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Political commentators said they expected the Likud opposition and groups to its right to fall silent for a few months as the nation came to terms with the shock of its first political assassination.

But the right is still strong and Mr. Rabin's Labour-led coalition has only a wafer-thin majority in parliament.

Labour's success was built on Mr. Rabin's reputation as a former general who could be trusted with Israel's security. This allowed the 73-year-old leader to reach an accord on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, sign a peace treaty with Jordan and start negoti-

ations on returning the Golan Heights to Syria in return for peace.

Shimon Peres, who is expected to succeed Mr. Rabin, is probably even more committed to the peace process. He played the prophet to Mr. Rabin's pragmatism.

But Mr. Peres, currently foreign minister and acting prime minister, is far less popular and is distrusted by a number of "swing" voters in the centre, political pollsters say.

"I don't think Peres will call an election now and risk a sympathy vote," said pollster Hanoch Smith. "It will take three months to organise an election... by then it will be back to the issues."

Other commentators noted that Mr. Peres's history of failure in four genera-

al elections as Labour leader might prove too much of a liability in next year's poll when the prime minister will be directly elected for the first time.

Mr. Peres was quick to reaffirm his commitment to Mr. Rabin's policies and he vowed to rededicate himself to Middle East peace.

Palestinians said Israel should now clamp down on government-armed Jewish settlers who opposed the transfer of authority in the West Bank and Gaza.

"This is a very important lesson, that the Israeli right should not continue to be armed," PLO negotiator Ahmed Korci told Reuters.

Palestinian officials said the assassination would give the Israeli government a chance to crack down on

the extreme-right and could give it a wider mandate to pursue peace.

However, some feared internal conflict within Labour could impede Israeli decision-making in the negotiations.

Mr. Smith said the right was subdued now but could bounce back, especially if the implementation of the agreement with the PLO, including troop redeployment, in the West Bank goes awry.

As for another Israeli strategic goal — peace with Syria and Lebanon — Mr. Rabin's disappearance could spell further delays.

Israel is deeply split about Mr. Rabin's reassurances that their security would not be endangered. Commentators say they are less likely to believe Mr. Peres.

India defies Kashmir revolt with call for polls

By Nelson Graves

Reuter

SRINAGAR, India — Weeks before the Indian government decided to hold assembly elections in troubled Jammu and Kashmir state, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's cabinet approved a little noticed measure.

If the national conference does not participate, the elections will not be credible at all," political commentator Mohammad Maqbool said.

Electoral commission members were set to visit the troubled state next Wednesday to determine if conditions were conducive for free and fair elections.

Earlier this year the commission decided not to call polls after a well-known shrine was destroyed following a standoff between militants and security forces

that could make it difficult for the election commission to accept the cabinet's recommendation or for the elections to appear credible to international observers.

"If the national conference does not participate, the elections will not be credible at all," political commentator Mohammad Maqbool said.

Electoral commission members were set to visit the state next Wednesday to determine if conditions were conducive for free and fair elections.

Earlier this year the commission decided not to call polls after a well-known shrine was destroyed following a standoff between militants and security forces

at Charar-E-Sharif, provoking popular outrage.

But Mr. Rao is wagering that this is the last, best chance to restore the state's administration and end the federal government's direct rule over the Himalayan region.

The prime minister has been under international pressure to restore democracy to the state and would reap domestic electoral gains if he brought peace to India's most rebellious state.

New Delhi's authority to rule directly over the strategically located state expires on January 17, and it would require parliament's approval to extend the power for another six months.

But Mr. Rao could have trouble pushing such a measure through parliament in the run-up to general elections due by mid-1996.

Local authorities believe the timing is right because Kashmir's bitter winter weather will hamper militants' mobility, making it easier to control violence.

The trade union representing state government workers announced its members would refuse to assist in preparations for the elections. But the State's chief administrator said thousands of workers from other regions could be drafted.

More than 20,000 paramilitary troopers have been called in to bolster security, especially in the Muslim-

majority Kashmir valley which accounts for 46 of 87 assembly seats. Jammu in the south, with more Hindus, has 37 seats. Buddhist-majority Ladakh in the east has four. Higher turnout was expected in those regions.

Kashmiris interviewed in the summer capital Srinagar were mostly defiant. "My conscience does not allow me to walk over 40,000 dead bodies and cast my vote to restore Indian democracy in the state," said Mohammad Ayub, a three-wheeler driver.

"Do you think Kashmiris will cast their vote after such a heavy sacrifice?" shopkeeper Shamim Ahmed said.

"Well, really? Is there a trip within Amman that is likely to last longer than 20 minutes? How many of us have had to make decisions that could not wait 20 minutes? Has the pace of life in Amman changed to that extent without my noticing it? Or are we simply following the doctrine of one-upmanship that guides consumer societies: '



Self-rule deal back on track

(Continued from page 1)

dule," Mr. Begin told Reuters.

"Whatever we have agreed and whatever we undertook upon ourselves we are going to implement in spirit and letter. I am confident that we have to do it and we shall do it," he said.

As foreign minister under Mr. Rabin, Mt. Peres not only gave Israel a grand vision of regional peace, he also led the detailed talks with Mr. Arafat on extricating soldiers from the West Bank.

"We will continue exactly according to the time schedule," Al Thawra said in another political comment.

Peres seeks 'peace cabinet'

(Continued from page 1)

The backing of these deputies would improve Mr. Peres's parliamentary majority, but still leave it slim at only 68 in the 120-seat Knesset.

But a Likud leader and former defence minister, Ariel Sharon, said he was "outraged" at these early contacts "while Rabin's tomb is still fresh."

"First we need to make peace between the Jews and for that Peres must set up a dialogue with the right, otherwise we are going to run into a catastrophe," he warned.

Two deputies from the small ultra-orthodox parties, the Shas and United Torah Judaism, have also told Mr. Peres they would be prepared to take part in a Labour-led coalition "on certain conditions."

U.S. Congress shows support

(Continued from page 1)

that the president expressed understanding for Mr. Arafat's decision not to attend the funeral for protocol and security reasons.

"The president just had a five-minute conversation with Chairman Arafat," Mr. McCurry said.

He quoted Mt. Clinton as telling the PLO leader: "I did not want to leave the region without touching base, I understand the dignified way in which you handled this very tragic episode."

Mr. McCurry said "Arafat not going was a result of protocol issues and security issues." He said one factor was concern over how the Israeli right wing would react if Mr. Arafat attended the funeral.

Probe focuses on conspiracy

(Continued from page 1)

onto a bookstand pictures of Mr. Rabin and his successor, Shimon Peres, both dangling from gallows. Underneath was the inscription, "Yigal Amir lives."

This would once have been dismissed as babble by a harmless lunatic fringe. But now Israel's leaders are beginning to take the militants seriously.

Ori Orr, chairman of the parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, said Monday that Israel should have come down harder on the extremists.

"Deep down, we believed it wouldn't really happen," Mr. Orr told the Associated Press. "After what has happened, all our thinking about Jewish extremists has changed, and we will take it all much more seriously."

Israel's security services have refrained from taking

true when the one to be used against Arabs against the bairds and the Jewish extremists who are perhaps getting to me. Is it not the case that the paramours have been cracked down harder on the extremists?

Mr. Orr said: "We will take it all much more seriously."

He urged the Palestinians to invest in Palestinian areas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

"There will be no peace and no stability in the entire Middle East if the Palestinians will not have real development and reconstruction starts," Mr. Arafat told the meeting.

He promised that his

new projects in Gaza and the West Bank and complained

about the lack of support from donor countries.

He said: "But, while

denying any involvement, he acknowledged the assassin was a member of his organisation.

Arafat urges fight against extremism

(Continued from page 1)

not change dramatically under Mr. Peres.

"We are certain that Mr. Peres will continue with the peace process. He has already informed us that it will continue and it is an irreversible option (for Israel)," said Tayeb Abdul Rahim, general secretary of the PNA.

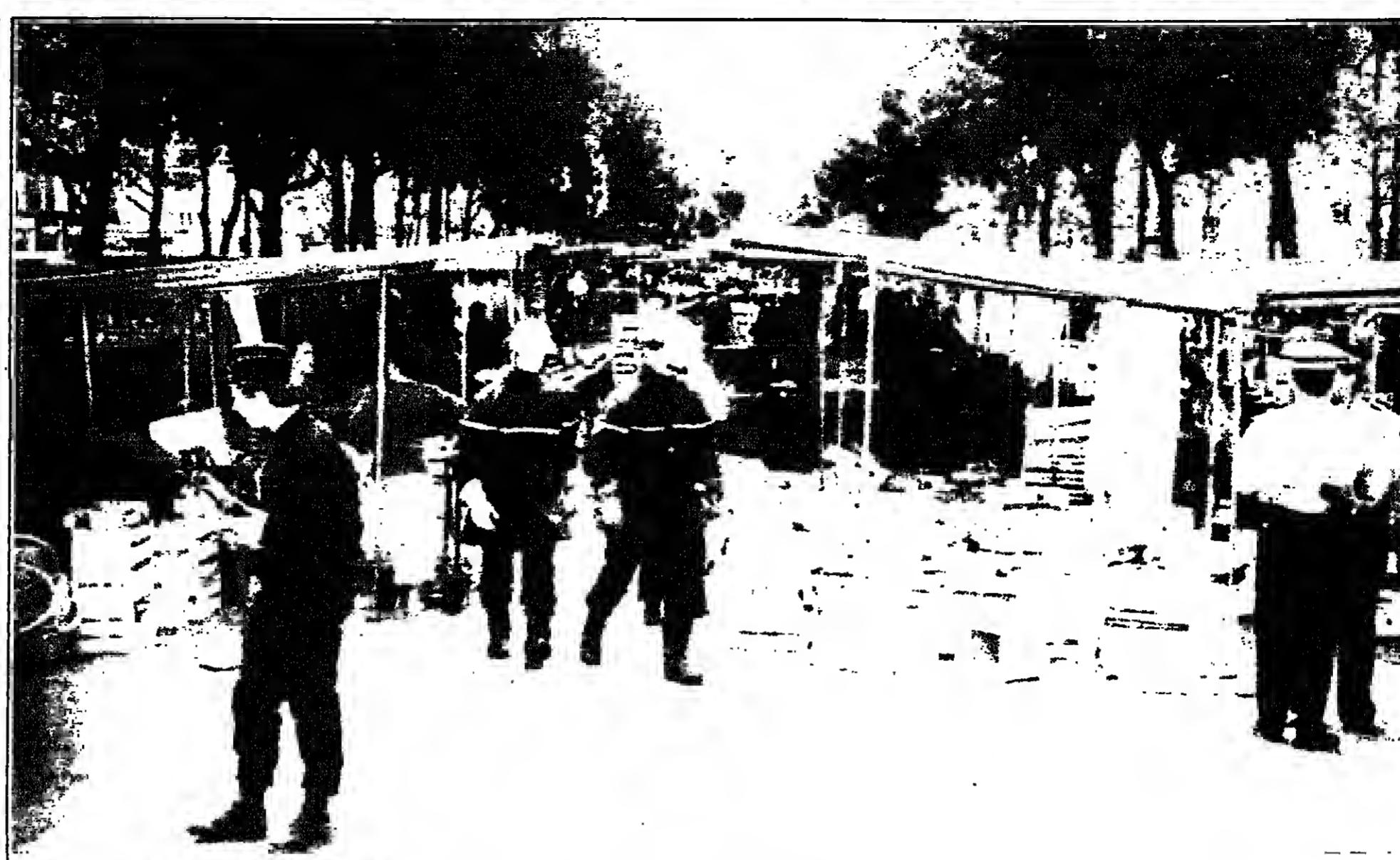
Mahmoud Abbas, a member

of the PLO Executive Committee and an expert on Israeli affairs said: "It is not easy for the state of Israel to turn its back to agreements signed ... I don't expect to see crucial changes in Israeli foreign policy."

"I think that Peres is capable of leading the government and of uniting the Labour Party. This would strengthen its standing in the coming elections," he said.

The head of the Society of Arab Studies in Jerusalem, Ishaq Budeiri, was also cautious about the future.

"Rabin was the strong man of Israel and the Labour Party and could take major decisions in consultation with Israeli generals.



French police patrol a market in Paris after an explosion there injured several people (AFP photo)

French suburban unrest raises fears of 'intifada'

By John Chalmers
Reuter

MANTES-LA-JOLIE, France — "I was born here, but I don't feel French. I'm an Arab," said Rachid, one of a group of youths sitting aimlessly around a dilapidated shopping precinct in this economic disaster zone north-west of Paris.

Behind the Val-Fniture precinct's vandalised stores and crumbling pavements rise crumbly apartment blocks, each with its own cluster of satellite dishes.

"It makes people feel at home. They watch television from North Africa, programmes in Arabic," said Mohammad.

Rachid and Mohammad are typical of a new generation of "beurs" — French youths of North African origin — who have spurned the values of a country they believe has rejected them.

"I can go to a factory and ask for a job, but when they see Mantes-la-Jolie on my papers there's no hope," Rachid said. "If they don't want us, then we don't want them."

He said nine out of 10 of his friends were unemployed.

Once hailed as a leap

forward in urban common estates such as Val-Fniture were thrown up in haste in the 1950s and 1960s to cope with a baby boom, a wave of immigrants and French "pieds noirs" — settlers fleeing Algeria after the North African country won independence.

With the onset of mass unemployment in the 1980s, the social architects' dream turned to a nightmare — many of the big-city suburbs, known as "banlieues," are now hotbeds of drug-dealing and violent crime.

A recent report by the police intelligence commission revealed that violence and crime were now common in two-thirds of French suburbs, irrespective of whether they had large immigrant populations or not.

Of more than 1,000 neighbourhoods studied, a core of about 200 were found to suffer from an "extremely high" lack of security. There the police, fire brigade and authorities in general "command little respect nor fear," it said.

Tension in the suburbs has been high in recent weeks since a wave of bombings in Paris and near the central city of Lyon.

It makes people feel at home. They watch television from North Africa, programmes in Arabic," said Mohammad.

Rachid and Mohammad are typical of a new generation of "beurs" — French youths of North African origin — who have spurned the values of a country they believe has rejected them.

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He said nine out of 10 of his friends were unemployed.

Once hailed as a leap

forward in urban common estates such as Val-Fniture were thrown up in haste in the 1950s and 1960s to cope with a baby boom, a wave of immigrants and French "pieds noirs" — settlers fleeing Algeria after the North African country won independence.

With the onset of mass unemployment in the 1980s, the social architects' dream turned to a nightmare — many of the big-city suburbs, known as "banlieues," are now hotbeds of drug-dealing and violent crime.

A recent report by the police intelligence commission revealed that violence and crime were now common in two-thirds of French suburbs, irrespective of whether they had large immigrant populations or not.

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OAPEC: Arabs need \$139 billion for energy expansion till 2010

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states need to pump more than \$139 billion over the next 15 years into expanding their energy sector to face a projected growth in world demand, an official group said Tuesday.

The projects cover oil and gas exploration, development of existing fields, and improvement of transport facilities for crude, gas and petrochemicals, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said.

"The investments will also involve modifications at regional oil refineries to meet new world environmental standards," it said in a study, obtained here.

The Kuwaiti-based group gave no breakdown for the investment but experts said most of the projects would be carried out in the Gulf, home to more than 60 per cent of

the world's proven crude reserves of around one trillion barrels.

Most Gulf states have already been involved in plans to boost oil output capacity to face a steady rise in consumption worldwide.

Independent estimates have shown three Arab Gulf nations — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — need to spend more than \$50 billion until 2000 to expand their crude oil industry.

Saudi Arabia, the world's oil superpower, has approved plans to develop its giant desert field of Shaybah to produce around 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) and maintain its output capacity at 10 million b/d by the year 2000.

Kuwait and the UAE plan to raise capacity to over three million b/d from around 2.5 million b/d currently while Iraq said last month it needed

nearly \$30 billion to nearly double production to six million b/d.

But Gulf Arabs have warned long-term expansion plans could falter if crude prices remained low and industrial nations pressed ahead with proposals to impose more energy taxes that could slow down growth in demand.

"Can Arab states face the financial challenge of expanding their energy production capacities?" asked the 10-nation OAPEC.

"Can they raise funds at a time when oil consumers are imposing discriminatory measures against oil imports?" it said in a reference to the carbon tax proposed by the European Union to limit crude consumption in a bid to protect the environment.

OAPEC did not elaborate on the increase in Arab production capacities but noted

regional states would account for the bulk of the rise in global demand of between eight million and 10 million b/d by the year 2010.

Experts said most Arab states could be forced to readmit foreign partners they kicked out three decades ago in a nationalisation drive. They said this would help them ensure both funds and technology for energy expansions.

Iraq has already made clear it would invite foreign investors for oil projects once crippling United Nations sanctions were lifted. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have also indicated they might take back foreign partners.

Most regional states have been hit hard by low crude prices, with their budgets suffering from deficits and overseas reserves drained by persistent withdrawals to finance growing development.

Low oil price, quota-busting limit OPEC's 1996 options

LONDON (R) — Chronic overproduction and low oil prices give the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) little room to manoeuvre when it meets in two weeks to decide 1996 production levels.

OPEC's lack of derivatives was evident again last month when, according to a Reuter survey of industry participants, output rose to 25.5 million barrels per day (b/d), up 240,000 b/d from September and nearly a million b/d over its 24.52 million b/d ceiling, in place but usually ignored since September 1993.

OPEC is most likely to hold the ceiling unchanged for all of next year with an option to revise it at midyear if needed, OPEC delegates said.

"The cheating is the final nail in the coffin. First we have high non-OPEC output, then a low price and now high OPEC output. We have no choice but a rollover," a senior OPEC official said.

When OPEC last met in June, several ministers hinted that the group would raise its ceiling next year to win back some market share lost to prolific non-OPEC producers.

But the temptation by some group members to pump up the volumes and continued record-setting output from several non-OPEC producers in the North Sea and Latin America have killed these aspirations.

"OPEC is in a strait-jacket. They should probably cut production but it would be politically impossible to pull off," said oil analyst Geoff Pyne of investment bank UBS.

Last month, Nigeria recorded the biggest OPEC production increase though Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE were also up from September, the Reuter survey found.

Venezuela was still overshooting its quota by the biggest margin and though its 2.72 million b/d output was steady from September, it was some 360,000 b/d over its quota.

The dire financial situations in both Venezuela and Nigeria, OPEC's largest non-

Mideast producers, mean sources" who miscalculate Venezuelan production figures.

But sources, including several senior Venezuelan officials, put the country's wellhead crude output over 2.7 million b/d.

Most of Venezuela's exports go directly into its own downstream system in the United States where it is the largest foreign oil supplier, surpassing Saudi Arabia this year.

Iran, OPEC's second largest producer, was seen slightly over quota last month after capitalising on a successful marketing campaign to replace sales lost by the U.S. boycott.

OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia pumped 8.14 million b/d in October, up from 8.07 million b/d in September but the kingdom supplied less to the market, Saudi sources said.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Erwin Arietta, currently OPEC's president, Monday again blamed "secondary

"The Reuter survey released Tuesday seeks a best

estimate of wellhead flows in OPEC states based on the views of officials, industry monitors and analysts inside and outside member countries. OPEC quotas are based on supply to market, defined to include movements to, but not sales from storage.

Traders said that while the market has accepted current OPEC output, any increase would result in a price fall.

"The market is expecting and has factored in a rollover. Any increase would be bad," said Bo Van Wijk, derivatives specialist at broker Amerex.

High world oil output and sluggish demand as the lack of supply anxiety has led oil companies to allow stocks to dwindle have kept pressure on oil prices.

On Tuesday, the world benchmark North Sea crude oil Brent Blend hovered around \$16.43 a barrel, some \$3 below the 1995 high hit in May.

Traders did not notice any change until September. Mr. Miyazaki said it was "inappropriate for the finance ministry to be involved in all of this." He thinks America is not enough, then one is an international perspective.

The incident is seen as a national disgrace of the finance ministry can

sector as part of economic reforms to offset low oil prices.

Official figures showed private investment in the Saudi cement industry and mining sector exceeded seven billion Saudi riyals (\$1.86 billion) during the previous five-year development plan, which ended in 1994.

"Saudi Arabia is working to encourage national and foreign investment in its economic sector, including mining which constitutes one of the main features in plans to expand the economic base," the Saudi statement said.

The non-oil mining sector in the GCC, which also groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has remained largely unexploited as the six members have concentrated on the development of their energy industry.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study just how your dynamic friends have become successful and try today to emulate them. Then get together socially with close associates.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) If you are more cognizant of current mechanisms and methods at this time, you can utilise them to your greatest advantage.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 19) You can see where you are headed more clearly at this time and you can make new plans for expansion. Consult an expert for advice.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) This is a good day to be with successful persons or business who can give you right ideas for your own advancement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about the most outstanding personalities of your acquaintances and contact them today for ideas which can be helpful to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Add pizzazz to any career activities you are doing and gain greater benefits from them. Then get together socially with fellow associates.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Get right into the amusements which fascinate you today and have a delightful time. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and get together.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You can solve those problematical affairs very nicely at this time. Do some entertaining at home later this evening with your loved one.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day today to dash about handling important matters and getting the right results. Drive carefully while on the highway.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be more modern in handling business affairs today and be more willing to expand and you won't get lost in the shuffle.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have many fine ideas today and you should weed out those not so good and get the others operating quickly for your success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a fine day today for putting your energy into private interests and improving them considerably. Do something to please your mate.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

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THE Daily Crossword

by Ronald C. Hirschfeld

ACROSS
1 Naughty kids
5 Happy
9 Cottonwood
14 Food regimen
15 Tops
16 Mature
17 River to the Baltic
18 Kismet
19 Small hill
20 Position open to attack
23 Swirl
24 Vane dir.
25 Greek letter
27 Sayings
30 Deck drains
35 Tilt
36 Old TV sitcom
37 Jean — Godard (French film director)
38 Where to sign
42 "Haw"
43 Lace again
44 Arabian gulf
45 Claim as one's own
47 Hemingway
49 —pros (law term)
50 Heel
51 Asian sea
54 Obey the rules
61 Kind of strike
63 Medley
64 Pervasive quality
65 Rock
66 Appoint
67 Raise
68 Indian dwelling
69 Stout and porter
70 Morse code dashes
DOWN
1 Pedestal figure
2 Kind of skirt
3 Hammer part
4 Potency
5 Faux pas
6 Goldbrick
7 Against
8 Bambi, e.g.
9 Vessel for 59D
10 Starting players
11 Footless animal
12 Pinocchio term
13 Sole
21 Small bill
22 Piano practice piece
26 Mimicked
27 Hilo hello
28 Eatery
29 Fall flower
30 Franch
31 Composer, Erik
32 Slur over
33 Magic charms
34 Aroma
36 Lucretia — (social reformer)
39 Therefora
40 Distributed cards
41 Renier
42 Connected to a computer network
43 Reverberates
48 "Norma —"

Yesterday's puzzle solved:
CAPE, A TALE, SLED, AOEN, SEMI, IS, HALO, TIED, CROSSBILLS, EMPOWERS, ERASES, IRONY, PART, SENSED, TIDE, EMS, CAGE, STREET, VIA, ESTES, EAT, SPELL, NEO, TARMAC, ENOS, ELM, EARL, ODESSA, FAIRE, EVER, AVOID, OVERLEAP, JOLLY, ROGER, EVEL, ALEE, ARENT, SERE, REST, MEETS, SHOB

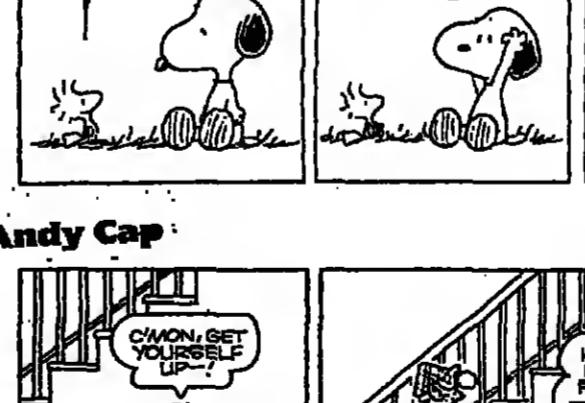
THE BETTER HALF

By Glasberg



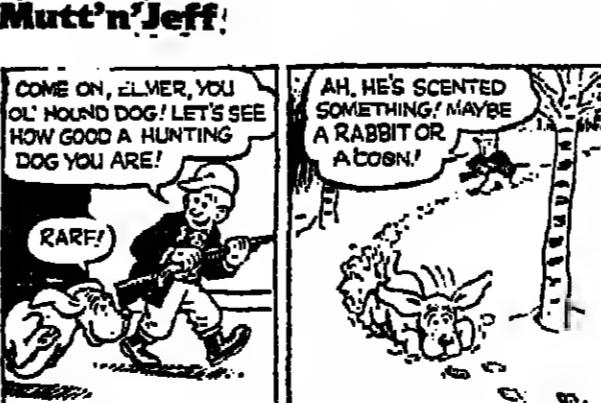
"Normally I don't notice such things, but did you change your mascara?"

Andy Cap



"YOU DIDN'T DRESS ME LAST NIGHT!"

Mutt'n'Jeff



"COME ON, ELVIER, YOU OL' MOUND DOG! LET'S SEE HOW GOOD A HUNTING DOG YOU ARE!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Herb Arnold and Mike Arpilson

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ALVIA

BRERO

INBELB

KEGATS

Print answer here: IT

Answers tomorrow

Yesterdays Jumble: VIPER GASSY NICELY ABLAZE

Answer: How the pizza maker described his job — EASY AS PIE

IT

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Doriemus wins Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Favourite Double Trigger was ordered to undergo a drugs test after New Zealand stayer Doriemus won the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday.

After starting strongly, the Ascot Gold Cup winner fell away during the second half of the 3,200-metre race to finish 17th.

Double Trigger had returned an "irregular swab" during a routine test before the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday.

But the five-year-old 9-2 favourite was allowed to start after an assurance from trainer Mark Johnston about the horse's condition, a Victoria Racing Club official said.

The Stewards' race report said top weight Double Trigger would undergo a swab test after the race but the result would not be available for about a week, the official added.

"Acting on Johnston's assurance and as the analyst was uncertain as to whether

the irregularity was related to a prohibited substance, the stewards permitted Double Trigger to take part in the race," she said.

Johnston said after the race that Double Trigger looked fine and was kicking when stewards performed the swab test.

"I can't explain what happened," Johnston said. "They (the stewards) took a post-race sample from him and told me at this stage not to be too concerned."

Australian jockey Damien Oliver guided Doriemus to a prestigious double in the Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival following the five-year-old's win in the Caulfield Cup two weeks ago.

The gelding, which gave Australian trainer Lee Freedman his third Melbourne Cup success in six years, won by four lengths from Nothin' Leica Daine, with 1993 winner Vintage Crop third in heavy conditions.

Double Trigger finished about 50 lengths behind the winner.

Doriemus, carrying 54.5kg and owned by Pacers Australia Syndicate from the Western Australia gold mining town of Kalgoorlie, started at 11-1.

"This horse is the best two-miler I've ever ridden. He's probably the best stayer in the country," Oliver said.

"Leica wanted the horse in the first four or five but he settled back and I thought it better not to push the horse early, just to let him work his way into the race."

"The last 200 metres of the race seemed to take forever."

Dermot Weld, trainer of third-placed Vintage Crop, said the nine-year-old was unable to recover from a poor start.

"The plus was to be in the first four or five but he got stopped in his tracks in the first 100 metres and he was last with a lap to run," Weld said.

Doriemus is the first horse to complete the Spring Carnival double since Let's

Elope in 1991.

Oliver, who rode Paris lane to second place behind Jeune in last year's Melbourne Cup, said his horse recovered superbly after a nervous start.

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Seles, Graf back Aussie boycott bid

OAKLAND (AFP) — A

movement by top players on the WTA Tour to boycott the Australian Open in quest of equal prize money to men gained strength here this week.

A letter signed by world co-number ones Monica Seles and Steffi Graf as well as other top players will be sent to Tennis Australia, which plans to raise men's total prize money by 17 per cent compared to a six per cent increase for women.

While finalists would remain on equal financial footing, the remainder of the women's field would receive less than male counterparts, a move Australian Open officials attribute to financial limitations and lower crowds and television ratings for women's matches.

American players Linda Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandes expressed dismay at the Aussie action, calling it "a huge step back for women's tennis."

PARIS (AFP) — Boris Becker may have turned professional more than a decade ago — but he is still aiming for the top.

"As long as I play competitive tennis it is always my aim to be the best tennis player there is," said the 27-year-old German, who was beaten in the final of the Paris Indoor Open on Sunday by the new world number-one Pete Sampras.

And Becker stressed that the only reason he was still ranked fourth in the world was because he had been willing to make changes to his game.

"I am not so old that I can no longer run as fast as my opponents — and I still hit my services as hard as anybody in the power department," he said.

"But the main lesson I have learned is that I must be willing to develop my game. I have had to adapt to the new players coming up and to the likes of Sampras and Agassi.

"Six years ago I could not have played from the back

court as I do now. It used a case either of hitting the first point for a winner or hitting a lot of aces and the match would be over."

Becker, who reigned as world number-one for 12 weeks back in 1991, has still not written off his chances of climbing back to the top of the rankings.

"I am glad I have been at the top once," he said, adding: "I am not the type of guy who is trying to avoid being number-one because the pressure is so high. I am quite the opposite."

"I felt it was an honour to be number-one and there were a couple of times this year when, if I had won a certain match, I would have gone very close to getting back to the top," he said.

Referring to the Wimbledon final where he would have overtaken Sampras in the rankings if he had won the title.

"So it all comes down to just one or two major matches," he said.

Becker, who won the first of his three Wimbledon titles in 1985, admits that great former champions probably wouldn't make much impression on today's top players.

"Comparing McEnroe and Connors with Sampras and Agassi... I would have to say that Pete and Andre would almost certainly win."

"Players today are taking more chances out there and the speed of the game has increased to an incredible level."

"But it still depends on what the surface is."

"I still think, for example, that in his best days Lendl on clay would have been an extremely tough opponent to beat."

"Sampras is incredible on grass and Agassi on a hard court is also very difficult to beat on a good day."

Asked which sort of player he most enjoyed playing, Becker replied: "Somebody I can beat."

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THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) AND THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA)

seek qualified Jordanian professionals for two vacant posts as National Programme Officers in their Amman office.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a multisectoral funding agency active in a broad spectrum of fields relevant to Jordan's socio-economic development as defined by the Jordanian Government's priorities. Among UNDP's current priority areas are (a) human development with particular emphasis on poverty reduction and creation of employment, (b) environmental protection and natural resource management, (c) technical support to improve Jordan's international competitiveness.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the U.N. system's primary funding agency in the field of population and development strategies (e.g. demography, population statistics); reproductive health, including family welfare/family planning, and advocacy.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Programme Officers in UNDP and UNFPA will, within the respective mandate of these two Institutions, have the following general duties and responsibilities:

- to analyze Jordan's national policies and priorities based on available socio-economic data and prepare relevant back-ground papers and reports;
- to identify Jordan's technical assistance needs and develop programme/project proposals for inclusion in UNDP's/UNFPA's Country Programmes for Jordan;
- to appraise programme/project proposals in close dialogue with the responsible government agencies and the Jordanian beneficiaries in the population at large;
- to monitor on-going projects through field visits and regular reporting, end to facilitate project implementation through supportive interventions and close follow-up; and through supportive interventions and close follow-up; and
- prepare programme management plans and carry out financial management of projects, including budgeting and expenditure forecasts.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- a post-graduate university degree, preferably in one of the social sciences (e.g. economics, public administration, sociology) or in a technical discipline relevant to socio-economic development;
- at least three and at most twelve years of relevant professional experience in government service, in academic institutions, in non-governmental organizations and/or in community-based development/social work;
- full oral proficiency in Arabic and English and excellent drafting / conceptualization skills in both languages;
- highly developed inter-cultural and inter-personal skills that enable the applicant to (a) feel fully at ease among and work closely with people of different races, cultures, political or religious orientations; (b) participate effectively in team work; and (c) be highly sensitive to and supportive of gender concerns;
- other qualifications that will be considered important extra assets: (e) computer literacy, particularly knowledge of and routine in the use of word processing; (b) strong public presentation and communication skills, and (c) knowledge of a third United Nations language.

Candidates are requested to submit their application (incl. a complete curriculum vitae) no later than 23 November 1995 in a sealed envelope clearly marked "NPO Application" to

UNDP or UNFPA, P.O. Box 35286, Amman 11180

or deliver it by hand to the receptionist in the UNDP/UNFPA office, Hirbawi Building, Obada ibn Al-Semt Street, Shmeisani, Amman. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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Delan Walsh & Lora Leeni...in

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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA PLAZA

Mahmoud Yassin, Hussein Fahmi & Rania Yassin...in
Hazelnut's Shell (Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Bad Girls
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30
CONCORD "2"
Adel Imam & Yusra
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Austrian Airlines celebrates third year of operation in Jordan

UNDER THE patronage of Austrian Ambassador Dr. Michael Stiglauer, Austrian Airlines in cooperation with its general sales agent, Petra Tours, held a reception on Oct. 6, 1995, at a Regent Hotel, on the occasion of their third year of operation in Jordan.

Dr. Stiglauer, delivered the opening speech in which he mentioned that Austrian Airlines is one of the oldest European airlines, wellknown for its friendliness and service.

Sam Abu Alsaoud, country manager of Au-

strian Airlines for Jordan & Iraq, also delivered a speech in which he mentioned the new schedule of Austrian Airlines flights.

A passenger travelling out of Amman, he said, will be able to catch more than 25 destinations on the same day, within 25 to 30 minutes, at Vienna's Airport.

Austrian Airlines is using the newest type of Airbuses (Airbus 340) for the long haul destinations, such as Washington, New York, Tokyo, Beijing and Johannesburg.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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A TOUCH OF TECHNIQUE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH: ♠ K82 ♠ K48 ♠ Q104 ♠ 653

EAST: ♦ A7 ♦ 52 ♦ 632 ♦ 84

WEST: ♡ A63 ♡ V2 ♡ 875 ♡ K1072 ♡ A84

SOUTH: ♣ A93 ♣ 106 ♣ A104 ♣ AKQ ♣ AJ

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

modern game to have completed that milestone along with Ivan Lendl, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe.

"It was nice to have the ceremony," said the 29-year-old Swede, who will be using six weeks off until the start of the new tennis year in Australia in January to relax briefly and begin working seriously for 1996.

"I'm very disappointed

that nothing was done in Essen by the ATP. Records

are nice to have, but I think that you appreciate them more 10 or 15 years down the road."

Edberg, seeded eighth at the Kungliga tennis hall, the classic venue for tennis in the Swedish capital prior to the opening of the massive Globen arena in 1989, was honoured with a brief ceremony on court before the match for his achievement in winning his 1,000th career match two weeks ago in Essen, Germany at the Eurocard Open.

World No. 23 Edberg is only the fourth player in the

senior Swede, winner of six Grand Slam titles, dismissed the threatened boycott of women tennis players over a reduction in their prize money at next year's Australian Open, an event he has won twice.

"Most people come to the Grand Slams to watch men play," he said. "We play best of five sets. In my opinion, I think it's fair that the women get less."

Edberg was joined in the second round by compatriots Henrik Holm and Jonas Bjorkman. Holm defeated Dane Kenneth Carlsson 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, while Bjorkman started with a 7-5, 6-3 win against Jacco Eltingh of Holland.

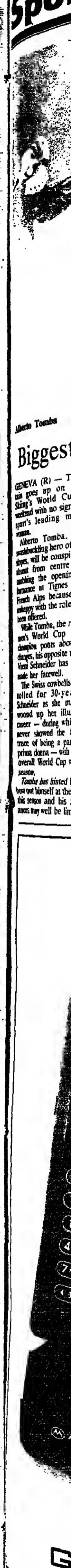
West led the king of clubs, and his first decision declarer has to make whether or not to hold up. Since refusing to hold up is a slight risk of a defensive ruff, declarer should spurn the holdup and win the trick. It might seem that the fate of the contract will rest on guessing which way to take the heart finesse, but South manager can convert a guess into a sure thing.

After drawing trumps in three rounds, East shuffling two hearts on the last two, declarer cashed the three diamond winners and then cashed with the jack of clubs. West won and was forced to cash with a club, which East discarded another heart as declarer.

The distribution of the heart suit

was now an open book. West had shown up with three trumps, three diamonds and six clubs, so the declarer could hold no more than one heart. Declaring a heart to the king, he was informed that a small slam was imminent, so South settled for the small slam.

The auction was straightforward,



e top

who won the title at Wimbledon this year, admits that great champions probably make much more than today's top players.

McEnroe says with Sampras and others, he would have to be Andre Agassi to truly win. "Today are taking chances out of the need of the game," he said to an incredulous reporter.

still depends on the surface is a hunch, for example, best days Lendl has had against opponent.

as is incredible. Agassi on a hill, so very difficult to good day. Which son of player enjoyed playing? "Somebody



Alberto Tomba

Biggest names missing from season-opener

GENEVA (R) — The curtain goes up on Alpico Skiing's World Cup this weekend with no sign of the sport's leading man or women.

Alberto Tomba, Italy's swashbuckling hero of the ski slopes, will be conspicuously absent from the opening stage, simbing the opening performance at Tignes in the French Alps because he is unhappy with the role he has been offered.

While Tomba, the reigning men's World Cup overall champion, points to rule changes, his opposite number Vreni Schneider has quietly made her farewell.

The Swiss cowbells finally tolled for 30-year-old Schneider as she modestly wound up her illustrious career — during which she never showed the faintest trace of being a pampered prima donna — with third overall World Cup win last season.

Tomba has hinted he may bow out himself at the end of this season and his appearances may well be limited to

the odd cameo role here and there in the coming winter.

The Italian is not the only skier outraged at the decision of World Cup organisers to change the start order of second leg runs in the slalom and giant slalom disciplines.

Until now, the fastest 15 finishers in the first leg started in reverse order on the decisive run, with the one with the slowest time going first. The skiers ranked 16th to 30th in the first run then followed in normal order.

But organisers have decreed that all 30 skiers who qualify for the second leg should start in reverse order, with the fastest going last, by which time skiers fear the slopes will be so cut up they will suffer a heavy time disadvantage.

Tomba has said he will boycott the season-opening giant slalom in protest and may restrict his appearances at other World Cup races to first legs only, waving goodbye and departing before the second run.

"Anyway, the World Cup is not my number one target

this season," he said. "I would like to win my first world title in Sierra Nevada."

Tomba, remarkable winner of 11 World Cup races last winter, has won three Olympic gold medals but has yet to capture a world crown and hopes he can gain his first at the world championships in Spain in February.

With the Italian unlikely to be a serious candidate for his own succession as World Cup winner, the trophy is up for grabs to a host of contenders among Skiing's all-rounders.

ALPINE SKIING

Veteran of the circuit, Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli has a record five overall titles to his credit and must be among the favourites even if he was a relative flop last season, failing to win a single race.

In the women's events, the hot favourite is bound to be German Katja Seizinger, who just missed out on the title in both 1993 and 1995. Her main rivals are likely to be Sweden's slalom queen Pernilla Wibers, versatile Austrian Anita Wachter, Swiss sensation of last season Heidi Zeller-Baehler and the American speed ace Picabo Street.

18 fans injured at Greek match

SALONIKA (R) — At least 18 people were injured in violent clashes between rival soccer fans at a Greek league match on Monday, police at the northern port city said. The game between local team PAOK and AEK Athens was abandoned two minutes before the scheduled finish when angry supporters stormed the field. They threw rocks, one of which hit the referee on the head. PAOK fans were apparently angered by refereeing decisions and the poor performance of their team, who trailed 3-1 when the game was halted in the 88th minute. AEK Athens were awarded a 3-1 victory.

Cleveland sues to stop Browns move

CLEVELAND (R) — The city of Cleveland on Monday won a temporary court order to stop the Cleveland Browns from moving to Baltimore. Lawyers for the city filed suit in common pleas court, a state court, on behalf of the residents of Cleveland asking that the move be blocked even as official confirmation of the deal was pending. A spokesman for the court said a temporary restraining order was granted to halt the move until at least Nov. 20 at which time a full-fledged hearing on the request will be held. The Browns have played in Cleveland since 1946.

2 NBA players suspended

NEW YORK (R) — The NBA suspended Chris Mills of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Predrag Danilovic of the Miami Heat for one game each on Monday and fined both players for a fight during a game on Saturday. Mills was fined \$10,000 for initiating the tussle by elbowing Danilovic in the chin and throwing a punch in the fourth quarter of Miami's 85-71 victory. Danilovic was fined \$3,500 for

Iraq is soccer's top scorer

GENEVA (AP) — Good news for soccer fans worldwide: The number of goals in international matches is rising. Bad news for World Cup champion Brazil: It trails Iraq in scoring supremacy.

In its biggest ever survey, world soccer's governing body FIFA on Monday published details of 12,865 goals scored in 5,119 top-class international matches over the past 10 years.

The match average was 2.5 goals in the mid-1980's. In the late 1980's this slumped to just over 2. It reached a high of 2.8 in 1993 and currently stands at 2.7, according to the magazine.

The result was not due to matches with double-digit scoring, but rather an all-round improvement in performance, FIFA said. It said the statistics should counter criticism that soccer matches are more boring and defensive than in the past.

The disappointing World Cup finals in Italy in 1990 — in which only 2.2 goals per match were scored — prompted FIFA to introduce rule changes favouring attacking rather than defensive play.

It even considered the idea of increasing the goal size but dropped this after protests from soccer traditionalists.

The reforms paid off at the entertaining finals in the United States last year, where fans enjoyed an average 2.7 goals per match.

Surprisingly, the Asian continent came out better on the

scorecard than the traditional soccer powerhouses of South

America and Europe.

Iraq topped the list of goal scorers, with nearly 2 goals per match between 1985 and 1995. Brazil, Mexico, the Netherlands and New Zealand followed with an average of around 1.8.

Italy has the most effective defence, conceding less than 0.6 goals per game. Ireland follows at just under 0.7 goals per match, with Morocco third and England fourth, according to the FIFA figures.

When comparing the number of goals scored to the number of goals yielded, Italy was the most "effective" team by FIFA standards. Over the 10-year-period it has scored an average 2.6 goals for every goal conceded. Brazil is second with 2.5.

Only teams which played at least 50 internationals were included in the survey.

FIFA said competition matches witnessed more goals than more relaxed exhibitions.

Only 11 per cent of all the internationals played between 1985 and 1995 ended in scoreless draws. Three goals or more were scored in 44 per cent of matches.

"We have concrete evidence that the chances of witnessing a match with 3 or more goals is in fact four times greater than seeing a match with no goals," said the study's author, Mario Schneider.

There were only 7 internationals with more than 10 goals. And the highest score?

Uganda-Iran, 9-8, in November 1989, FIFA said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

elbowing Mills to the side of the head. Both players also received automatic \$1,000 fines for being ejected from a game.

Kafelnikov advances in Kremlin Cup

MOSCOW (AP) — Top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov, playing on a sore ankle, still breezed past unseeded Frederik Fetterlein in straight sets Monday in the \$1.125 million Kremlin Cup tennis tournament. Kafelnikov, one of only two seeds in action on the opening day of play at Moscow's indoor Olympic stadium, downed the unseeded Dane 6-3, 7-5. Eighth-seeded Byron Black of Zimbabwe eliminated 17-year-old Vladimir Volchkov of Belarus 6-3, 6-2. Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev, seeded fourth, was a last-minute scratch with a throat ailment. His scheduled opponent, Russian Davis Cup hero Andrei Chesnokov, ousted replacement American Tommy Ho 7-5, 7-6 (7-3).

Forest overwhelm Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) — Nottingham Forest cruised to a 4-1 victory over visiting Wimbledon who had their "hard-man" Vinnie Jones sent off for the second time this season just before half-time in Monday night's English Premiership clash. Dutch striker Bryan Roy scored his sixth goal of the season after just eight minutes to give Nottingham Forest a 1-0 lead but Jones levelled at 1-1 three minutes later with his first goal of the current campaign. Nottingham Forest captain Stuart Pearce put the home side back in front just before half-time while Wimbledon's homes nosedived when Jones got his marching orders for the tenth time in his career. Two minutes into the second-half Jason Lee joined Roy on six goals so far this season while Scot Gemmill put the match beyond doubt with the home side's fourth goal.

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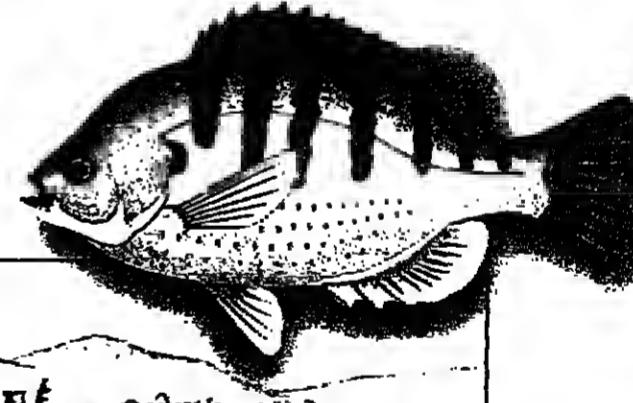
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'Arabs, international community have responsibility to help W. Bank, Gaza'

Jordanian-Palestinian relations in new phase characterised by serious action, Crown Prince Hassan tells Cairo meeting

CAIRO (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are the joint responsibility of all Arab and international parties.

In an address delivered on his behalf by his advisor Mohammad Saqaf at a seminar on Palestinian reconstruction and development in Cairo, Prince Hassan said the fact that the political aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations are the sole responsibility of the Palestinians does not negate that the international community shoulders responsibility towards the economic development of the Palestinian territories.

Prince Hassan said the only way to enhance political peace is to bring improvement to the living conditions of all the region's peoples.

Prince Hassan voiced confidence that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will be able to face all requirements of economic development and overcome obstacles facing it.

Nevertheless, he added, "we believe that the process of reconstructing the Palesti-

nian economy and enabling the PNA to meet the requirements of a sustainable economic development can in no way take place without the support of the region's countries and the international community... Jordan believes that peace is an important prerequisite for achieving this goal but peace cannot on its own achieve reconstruction and development. Financial support by the international community is an important factor at this stage in rehabilitating the Palestinian economy."

Prince Hassan said the international community should work on widening the scope of development programmes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel should also lift some restrictions imposed on the Palestinian economy to enable the Palestinians establish economic links with the Arab World, he said.

Economic development in Palestine cannot take place in seclusion from the Arab medium, he noted, asserting that it was imperative to activate joint Arab economic cooperation.

As the Arab countries are

joining the peace process, it is becoming clear that the Middle East will soon witness drastic changes, said the Crown Prince. Jordan hopes the process will lay the foundation stone for economic development in the region, especially in the Palestinian territories which remained for about 27 years handicapped by occupation, he said.

He said Jordan took the initiative to help the Palestinian-Palestinian relationship has started a new stage distinguished by serious work," he said.

The Crown Prince added that Jordan "will save no effort in urging the international community to meet its obligations towards the Palestinian economy and addressing structural problems facing it, especially the lack of the infrastructure and public services."

Prince Hassan voiced hope that the seminar would come up with mechanisms that would contribute to overcoming economic and financial obstacles and challenges facing the Palestinian people.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat inaugurated the seminar, which is organised by the Arab League.

and the value added tax in the Palestinian areas.

Jordan has also reopened branches of Jordanian banks in the West Bank to fill the vacuum left by the absence of Palestinian financial institutions. In addition, the two sides agreed to the use of the Jordanian dinar as one of the currencies circulated in Palestine, he said.

"The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has started a new stage distinguished by serious work," he said.

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Israelis light candles at the site of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv (AFP photo)

Leah Rabin blames Netanyahu, recalls prophetic death threats

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The widow of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli right-wingers created the atmosphere that led to her husband's assassination by a religious fanatic.

Leah Rabin, in a series of radio and television interviews, blamed right-wing lawmakers for giving violent speeches in parliament and allowing outrageous incitements against her husband at rallies.

"There was a Likud rally in Jerusalem not too long ago," she recalled. "They put the figure of Yitzhak, my husband, in the uniform of a Nazi leader and Mr. Netanyahu was there. He later talked against it, but he was there and he didn't stop it."

In the interview, with ABC Television, she also complained that her husband was pictured as wearing a keffiyeh like Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and no one put a stop to it.

Mrs. Rabin said she thought about refusing to shake hands with Mr. Netanyahu at her husband's funeral but then decided not to make a scene. But she said she tried to be "very cold to him, as cold as I could be."

She added: "He knew, and we both understood that we would have both loved to avoid shaking each other's hand."

"Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, now he can say from here to eternity that he didn't support it, didn't agree with it, but he was there and he didn't stop it," she said of the instance where Mr. Rabin was the target of threats.

Mrs. Rabin compared her

husband's assassination to the killing in Tel Aviv during World War II of a Jewish activist who was shot to death by Jewish extremists after being smeared as a collaborator with the Nazis.

"The night my husband was shot dead I couldn't help thinking of the analogy. There is the incitement first and then there will always be someone to carry out the deed," she said.

She described her husband as being dogged by Jewish extremists who would stand outside the prime minister's house jeering at him for making peace with the Palestinians.

"For weeks and weeks, every week they would come and wait for him and shout at him 'traitor, murderer,'" she said.

"Last Friday, when I got home at 3 o'clock," she added, "they said to me 'just wait. A year from now, in the Kings of Israel Square we'll kill you both. There you will be like Mussolini and his mistress. That's the way you will be in Kings of Israel Square'."

Mrs. Rabin told the radio interviewer that she sensed a new mood in Israel for peace after her husband's tragic death.

"I don't think the hope for peace died with him. I think the reverse is the truth," she said.

She noted that Mr. Rabin sang a song of peace at a rally attended by 100,000 just before he was shot.

"I already hear it from every quarter, people are saying that song cannot be stopped," she said. "We will all continue, we (and) the young people, the children."

U.S. and U.N. press Serbs to cooperate on war crimes

SARAJEVO (R) — The United States and the United Nations put pressure on Bosnian Serbs on Tuesday to cooperate with war crime investigations overshadowing the Balkan peace summit.

U.S. human rights investigator John Shattuck was returning to former Yugoslavia while the U.N. Security Council considered a demand for "immediate access" to areas of Bosnia where the Serbs are said to have killed thousands of Muslims in cold blood.

The families of two French pilots, shot down by the Serbs during a NATO mission, urged U.S. President Bill Clinton to press for news of the men who have disappeared in captivity.

The focus on war crimes reportedly irked Mr. Milosevic who wants the talks with Croatia and Bosnia to concentrate on the issues discussed during the round of international mediation which led to the summit.

A political source said the Serbian leader felt backed into a corner by the demands to sacrifice Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Mladic and risked a collision with nationalist hardliners at home who fear the peace process is already weighed against Serbs.

A resolution sent to the Security Council by the big power contact group mediating in the conflict bracketed the Bosnian Serbs with Croatia which was accused of trampling Serb human rights during offensives this year to recapture Serb-held soil.

It demanded better Croatian compliance with human rights.

The resolution was expected to be passed later this week and to demand that U.N. investigators be allowed to visit refugees and areas where the Serbs are alleged to have carried out

killings and ethnic cleansing. They include Srebrenica where Mr. Mladic's army is accused of killing up to 8,000 Muslim men after capturing the U.S. safe enclave in eastern Bosnia in July.

Other sites were in northern Bosnia where thousands of Serbs have been made homeless and hundreds of Muslims are missing since autumn fighting which cost the Serbs 4,000 square kilometres of territory.

Although the Srebrenica allegations were leaked by U.S. officials before the summit began, the Washington Post said U.N. war crimes prosecutor Richard Goldstone was questioning U.S. cooperation with his investigations.

The newspaper quoted a letter from Mr. Goldstone to the U.S. embassy in the Hague in which he expressed disappointment with the "quality and timeliness" of the information supplied by U.S. intelligence.

The U.S. has kept secret most of the intelligence it gathered by surveillance including satellites during the fighting, even when U.N. observers on the ground were shut out of sensitive areas by the warring sides.

It has a much more complete record of the course of the war than has ever been made public.

Mr. Perry, on a trip to work out Russia's military role in post-war Bosnia, declared meanwhile that U.S. Troops may get only a few days' notice before being sent into Bosnia once a peace treaty is reached.

Column 10

Circumcised immigrant takes Rabin's name

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A new Jewish immigrant has adopted the name of Israel's assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin under a religious rite after undergoing circumcision. The Jerusalem Post said Tuesday that Russian immigrant Lazar Alexander, 27, asked that his name be changed when the doctor asked him to recite the "Kiddush" in which the name of the circumcised man is stated. "Yitzhak will continue to live in Israel," he said in halting Hebrew, stirring the small crowd at the ceremony.

Mr. Rabin was killed in Tel Aviv on Monday in the northern town of Safed, on Rabin's bier day, the paper reported. Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, meanwhile, plans to rename Kings of Israel Square, where Rabin was assassinated at a peace rally Saturday, after the slain premier, the paper said.

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